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INVENTORY OF THE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES OF LOUISIANA

TOWN OF THIBODAUX

PREPARED BY
THE LOUISIANA HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY
SERVICE DIVISION
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY, LOUISIANA
THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
MARCH 1942

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"To bring together the records of the past and to house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future."

--FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

FOREWORD

The Inventory of the Municipal Archives of Louisiana is one of a number of guides to historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on Historical Records Survey projects of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Thibodaux, is the second publication in the Louisiana series.

The Historical Records Survey program was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the town, and also the needs of lawyers, business men and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by Historical Records Survey Projects attempt to do more than give merely a list of records--they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the town or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town, and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of Historical Records Survey projects, even in a single town, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey program was organized by Luther H. Evans, who served as Director until March 1, 1940, when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child. The Survey operates as a Nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Service Division, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

HOWARD O. HUNTER
Commissioner of
Work Projects

PREFACE

The Nation-wide WPA Historical Records Survey was organized to inventory State and local archives, early American imprints, church archives, and collections of manuscripts. In Louisiana, the Historical Records Survey now operates as a unit of the State-wide Records Project, which is sponsored by the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, and some seventy local governmental bodies.

This inventory, the second publication in the series Inventory of the Municipal Archives of Louisiana, is divided into two parts. The first is composed of introductory material: an historical sketch and map of the town; an essay on the present governmental organization and records system and a chart of the municipal government; and an essay on the housing, care, and accessibility of the municipal records with floor plans of the city hall. The second part of the volume is devoted to the inventory proper, which consists of descriptive entries for each extant records series arranged by offices. The list of records under any particular office is arranged topically and, so far as possible, according to the procedure of the office. Each listing of records is preceded by a brief essay on the origin and functions of the office designed to give a better understanding of the records system. A condensed form of entry is used giving the limiting dates and number of volumes or containers, a brief description of the contents of each, information relative to indexes, and location of the record series.

The initial inventory of the municipal records of Thibodaux was begun in July 1937 but was only partially completed in that year. Field work was resumed in March and April 1940, and the final recheck was made in June, July, and September 1941 by Louis Hermann, assistant project technician in charge of forms editing and entry writing. Research for the legal essays was done in part by Robert E. Spence. The essays and historical sketch are the work of Marcelle F. Schertz, supervisor of municipal archives inventories. Preparation of the index was supervised by David E. Lott. The program of publication of the municipal archives inventory of Louisiana was begun under the direction of John C. L. Andreassen, State Supervisor, and has been continued under the supervision of Virgil L. Bedsole and Paul M. Eakin, who have succeeded to that office.

The Survey is now engaged in compiling a list of municipal incorporations in Louisiana which will include exact references to all records of incorporation, reincorporation, charter amendment, and abolishment. The list, together with a comprehensive essay on the general laws relative to the incorporation of municipalities, will form a volume intended to be used both as a tool in the planning of future municipal inventories and as a handbook on incorporation procedure and municipal government. The publication of this volume will make unnecessary the repetition in each inventory of information applicable to all municipalities in the State.

Municipal inventory publications may be used as a guide by officials who, because of the periodic turnover in office personnel and because of the division of duties, cannot be expected to have a comprehensive knowledge of the records, familiarity with which is necessary to the efficient

functioning of the office. Such inventories may be used as a basis of comparison by municipal officials throughout the State. Local historians will find the inventories ready guides to records reflecting political, social, and economic developments. To students of local government they will prove of value both in locating the records and in tracing the trends of local government as manifested in the evolution of the office structure and the change in office functions. The inventories may be used in schools to familiarize the students with the various aspects of local government as well as with the types of records required for its administration.

The individual volumes in the series Inventory of the Municipal Archives of Louisiana will be identified by the name of the municipality. It is planned that individual inventories will be published on major municipalities; the inventories of the smaller municipalities of a parish may be combined in one volume. The present volume is issued in mimeographed form under the official sponsorship of the Department of Archives, Louisiana State University, and the co-sponsorship of the Board of Trustees of Thibodaux, Louisiana.

The general regulations and procedures of the Service Division of the Work Projects Administration, which are applicable to all project units in the 48 states, have been followed in Louisiana. The administrative offices in Louisiana and the regional and Washington offices have always given the project cordial support and assistance. We wish, also, to acknowledge the active interest and assistance of the municipal officials of Thibodaux and particularly of Charles Omer Naquin, deputy tax collector, in the preparation and publication of this inventory.

The publications of the Survey are distributed to State and local public officials and libraries in Louisiana and to a limited number of libraries and governmental agencies outside the State. Requests for information concerning this or other publications of the Survey in Louisiana should be addressed to the State Supervisor or to Dr. Edwin A. Davis, Archivist, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A list of these publications will be found on the last pages of this volume.

PAUL M. EAKIN
State Supervisor
State-wide Records Project
Official Project 165-1-64-161

300 Old Criminal Courts Building
Tulane and Saratoga Streets
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 1942

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Maps and Charts

ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Abbreviations

alph. - alphabetically
approx. - approximately
arr. - arranged
art. - article
aver. - average
chron. - chronologically
comp. - compiler
Const. - Constitution
E.S. - Extra Session
ed. - editor
et al. - et alii, et alias (and others)
et seq. - et sequentes, et sequentia (and following)
ft. - foot, feet
hdw. - handwritten
HRS - Historical Records Survey
ibid. - ibidem (in the same place)
idem - the same reference
in. - inch, inches
incl. - inclusive
I. P. A. La. - Inventory of the Parish Archives of Louisiana
La. - Louisiana
La. A. - Acts of the Louisiana State Legislature
La. Ann. - Louisiana Annual Reports
mim. - mimeographed
n.d. - no date given
no., nos. - number, numbers
numer. - numerically
p., pp. - page, pages
par. - paragraph
sec., secs. - section, sections
U.S. - United States
v. - versus (against)
vol., vols. - volume, volumes
W.P.A. - Work Projects Administration or Works Progress Administration.

Symbols

x ..... by (in dimensions)
-- ..... to date and continuing
' ..... foot, feet
" ..... inch, inches
% ..... per cent

Explanatory Notes

Titles of Records. Exact titles of records are written in solid capitals without brackets (see entry 1). In the absence of titles, descriptive titles have been assigned, which are written in solid capitals and enclosed in brackets (see entry 15). If a record title is not descriptive of the contents of the record, an assigned explanatory title (or explanatory words), written with initial capitals and enclosed in parentheses, has been added (see entry 2). The current or most recent title of a record is used as the entry title, and title variation is indicated (see entry 1).

Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes

Dates. The first and last dates of the record are shown in the title line of the entry. A date followed by two dashes signifies that this record is current, as 1924--. Continuous records are shown by a hyphen between the beginning and closing dates, as 1908-19. Gaps in the records are indicated by a comma between groups of inclusive dates, as 1893-96, 1898-1908, 1910--.

Labeling. Figures or letters in parentheses, following the number of volumes, file boxes, or other types of containers, indicate the labeling. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed that there is none.

Dimensions. The dimensions of volumes, file boxes or file drawers, and maps are given in inches.

Discontinuance. Where no statement is made that the record was discontinued at the last date shown in the entry, it could not be definitely established that such was the case. Where no comment is made on the absence of prior, subsequent, or intermediate records, no definite information could be obtained.

Description of Records. The description of the contents of a record applies only to the current or most recent record unless a change in contents is actually shown in a record entry.

Condition of Records. Records are in good condition unless otherwise indicated.

Location of Records. When all or the majority of the records of an office have a common location, the location is indicated in the last sentence of the office essay instead of in each individual entry.

Cross References. Title-line cross references are used to show the continuity of a record series which has been kept separately for a period of time and with other records for different periods of time. An example is that in entry 20: "1914- May 30, 1938 in Cash Book, Tax Collections, Town of Thibodaux, entry 46." Title-line cross references are complemented by corresponding body-of-entry cross references, as in entry 46; "Also contains 1914- May 1938, Cash Book, Town of Thibodaux, entry 20."

Citations. All citations to published works and articles are given in full the first time that one such appears in the Inventory. Thereafter a shortened form may be used.

Citations to the acts of the Legislature and General Assemblies of the State of Louisiana refer to the act and section numbers, except for the years 1813-27, 1830, and 1832-35. The acts for these years are not numbered; hence, citation is made to the page of the beginning of the act in the official publication.

MAP OF THIBODAUX

AND

HISTORICAL SKETCH


BAYOU LAFOURCHE
TOWN LIMITS
PUBLIC ROAD
BRIDGE
POCUS ROAD
ST. LOUIS
GREEN
MARONGE
PATRIOT
NARROW
1ST.
2ND.
3RD.
4TH
5TH
6TH
7TH
8TH
9TH
10TH
11TH
12TH
ST. MICHEL
CANAL
ST. PHILIP
ST. MARY
GUION
ISABELLE
WASHINGTON
BRADFORD
JOSEPHINE
LAWRENCE
GENNICHOLS
HENDERSON
CAROLINE
HARRISON
JACKSON
PRESIDENT
BOURBON
LAGARDE
ST. CHARLES
McCULLA
GOODE
TETREAU
MENARD
ST. JOSEPH
TOWN LIMITS
HEBERT
BACK ST.
S.P.R.R.
PECAN
SWEENEY
TOWN LIMITS
BUSINESS DISTRICT
N
W
E
S
LOUISIANA
LAFOURCHE PARISH
THIBODAUX
BAYOU LAFOURCHE
1ST.
2ND.
3RD.
4TH
MENARD
ST. MICHEL
6TH
5TH
POCUS
CANAL
ST. PHILIP
ST. LOUIS
GREEN
MARONGE
PATRIOT
NARROW
MAP OF THIBODAUX
LAFOURCHE PARISH
LOUISIANA
LEGEND
1 CITY HALL
2 COURT HOUSE
3 PARISH JAIL
4 FIRE STATION
5 PARK
6 LIGHT AND WATER PLANT

(First entry, p. 53.)

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thibodaux (alt. 10 ft.), (1) the parish seat of Lafourche, is a Louisiana French city of 5,851 population (2) situated on the right bank of Bayou Lafourche in the upper part of the parish.(3) The bayou was once a distributary of the Mississippi River and an important artery of commerce, but since the damming of the stream at Donaldsonville, which cut off the normal water supply from the Mississippi River, the bayou has been little used for transportation purposes.(4) Thibodaux is without a main line railroad, but a branch road taps the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad 3 miles below the town at Shriever in Terrebonne Parish.(5) Thibodaux is readily accessible by motor car and bus lines via state highways 29 and 69. By Louisiana highway 29 it is 34 miles northwestward to Donaldsonville,(6) and about 15 miles southeasterly to Raceland.(7) From the latter town U.S. highway 90 (Old Spanish Trail) leads to New Orleans some 47 miles to the northeast.(8) Along state highway 69 Houma is about 15 miles south of Thibodaux.(9) The triangle formed by Thibodaux, Houma, and Raceland is said to be the most thickly populated rural section in the United States;(10) the road along the west bank of Bayou Lafourche between Thibodaux and Raceland, because of the close proximity of homes along this route, has been referred to as "the longest street in the world"(11) Probably because of this great density of population along the bayou, a rural free delivery route was started from Thibodaux on November 1, 1896, one month after the first such route in the United States was established in West Virginia.(12)

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1. Louisiana WPA Writers' Program, Louisiana: A Guide to the State, p. 577, hereinafter cited as Louisiana State Guide.
2. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census, 1940, Population, First Series, Number of Inhabitants, Louisiana, p. 3.
3. Louisiana Highway Commission, Louisiana Official Road Map, Revised, May 1939 Edition, hereinafter cited as Highway Commission Map.
4. Louisiana State Guide, p. 573.
5. Ibid., pp. 577, 580.
6. Ibid., pp. 573-577.
7. Ibid., pp. 577-579.
8. Ibid., pp. 386-389.
9. Highway Commission Map.
10. Ibid., Louisiana State Department of Agriculture, Louisiana's Message 1930-31, p. 224.
11. New York Times, January 12, 1941.
12. Louisiana State Guide, p. 578. However, as early as 1866 the United States Government had contracted with Marcellus Lejeune to carry the mail from Lockport to Donaldsonville. (Thibodaux (La.) Thibodaux Sentinel, November 24, 1866.) He was scheduled to leave Thibodaux for Donaldsonville every Monday and Thursday, returning the following Tuesday and Friday. The mail was to be delivered to Lockport on Wednesdays. During the four preceding years delivery of mail between these points had been dependent on private citizens.

(First entry, p. 53.) Historical Sketch

The town of Thibodaux apparently originated as a trading post which served the areas between New Orleans and the Bayou Teche country, and between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.(13) The land along Bayou Lafourche has been inhabited since the early French colonial period, (14) the first permanent settlements directly on the bayou having been made about 1750.(15) But population was thickest along the upper part of the bayou near present day Donaldsonville,(16) and it was not until the coming of the Acadians in 1765 (17) that plantations began to extend further southward.(18) During the Spanish colonial period the soil fertility and trade importance of the Lafourche section gained more widespread recognition,(19) and around 1781 a settlement along the bayou known as Valenzuela (now Plattenville) was established by Canary Islanders sent by the King of Spain.(20) During the last decade of the century a trading post developed along the bayou below Valenzuela in the neighborhood of what is now Thibodaux.(21)

The town was laid out about 1820 (22) by Henry Schuyler Thibodaux, who 2 years previously had donated to the police jury of the parish of Lafourche Interior "140 square feet of land facing the highway on plot number 2 in the village projected on land belonging to him through having acquired it from the Honorable Henri Johnson."(23) This land was to be used as a site for a courthouse, which Thibodaux agreed to construct at his own expense.(24) In 1819 he sold to the police jury an adjoining

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13. Louisiana State Guide, p. 577; Memoirs of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Thibodaux, Louisiana, p. 11, hereinafter cited as Memoirs of St. Joseph Church.
14. Roger Baudier, The Catholic Church in Louisiana, p. 292, hereinafter cited as Baudier, The Catholic Church.
15. Helen M. Bowie, Bayou Lafourche, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Louisiana State University, hereinafter cited as Bowie, Bayou Lafourche.
16. Ibid., p. 21.
17. Henry E. Chambers, A History of Louisiana, pp. 269,271.
18. T. Lynn Smith, The Population of Louisiana: Its Composition and Changes, p. 11, hereinafter cited as Smith, Population.
19. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 292.
20. Ibid., p. 197. In accordance with the decrees of the Spanish governors Don Estevan Miro in 1790 and Manuel Gayoso de Lemos in 1799, surveys had been made along the Bayou Lafourche by Vicente Pintado and Carlos Trudeau in the settlements of the Acadians in Valenzuela and in the village of La Fourche of Chitimachas. (Survey of Federal Archives, Pintado Papers, II, 49, 54, 63.)
21. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 292.
22. Bowie, Bayou Lafourche, p. 21; Alcee Fortier, ed., Louisiana, Comprising Sketches of Parishes, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, arranged in Cyclopedic Form, hereinafter cited as Fortier, Louisiana.
23. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Original Acts (1818-1820), pp. 97-99, in Conveyances, see I. P. A. La., No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 15, p. 50.
24. Ibid.

plot of land to be used as the site for a jail.(25)

Henry Schuyler Thibodaux, the founder of the town that bears his name, served as a captain in the 7th regiment of the Orleans Territorial militia,(26) was a member of the Territorial Legislature,(27) justice of the peace for the county of Lafourche,(28) a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1812, and state senator for the district of Lafourche.(29) As president of the state senate, he became acting governor of Louisiana in 1824, filling the unexpired term of Governor Thomas Bolling Robertson.(30) Born in Albany, New York, in 1769, the descendant of a French Canadian, Thibodaux came to Louisiana in 1794 and settled in what is now St. James Parish. He moved to the site of the present town of Thibodaux in 1801. In 1810 he moved to the southwestern section of Lafourche County, which, in 1822, was established as Terrebonne Parish(31) reputedly through his efforts as a member of the state legislature.(32)

The first house on the site of the present town of Thibodaux is said to have been built by James Carr in 1819.(33) The first four settlers, according to an historical account in the Thibodaux Sentinel based on the newspaper files of the Minerva for 1846, were a blacksmith, a billiard table and coffee-house keeper, a tavern keeper, and a merchant.(34) Among the settlers who bought land from Henry Thibodaux between 1809 and 1812 were William Goforth,(35) Judge of the Interior

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25. Ibid., p. 51.
26. Clarence Edwin Carter, comp. and ed., The Territorial Papers of the United States, IX (The Territory of Orleans, 1803-1812), 637, hereinafter cited as Carter, Territorial Papers.
27. Historical Biography of Henry Schuyler Thibodaux, (typescript in the possession of Sidney R. Coulon, Thibodaux, Louisiana), hereinafter cited as Historical Biography.
28. Carter, Territorial Papers, IX, 600, 824; Historical Biography.
29. Ibid.
30. Ibid.
31. La. A., 1822, p. 74; Historical Records Survey, County-Parish Boundaries in Louisiana, p. 33.
32. Historical Biography; New Orleans Daily Picayune, November 30, 1873.
33. Fortier, Louisiana, II, 528.
34. Thibodaux (La.), Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, April 3, 1875. Note: Until June 9, 1886 the paper was entitled Thibodaux Sentinel. After June 6, 1906 this title was resumed. See Historical Records Survey, Louisiana Newspapers, 1794-1940, A Union List of Louisiana Newspaper Files Available in Offices of Publishers, Libraries, and Private Collections in Louisiana, p. 222, hereinafter cited as Historical Records Survey, Louisiana Newspapers.
35. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Record of Deeds (1808-1812) p. 51, in Conveyances, hereinafter cited as Record of Deeds, see I. P. A. La. No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 15, p. 50.

Parish of Lafourche in 1808 (36) and 1809,(37) Jacques Verret, Mathurin Daigle, Joseph Darsy, and Pierre Guidry.(38)

It would seem that by 1830 community life was sufficiently developed to make advisable the organization of a formal municipal government, for in that year the town was incorporated as Thibodauxville by the state legislature.(39) The government thus established was directed by five freeholders who acted as trustees of the town for a term of 1 year.(40) The corporate limits were designated as "all that portion of land situated in the Parish of Lafourche Interior, laid off and divided into lots by Henry S. Thibodaux, deceased, bounded by the main road leading from bayou Lafourche to the parish of Terrebonne, below by the land of the widow Guenon, in front by the bayou Lafourche, and behind by the lands of the widow of said H.S. Thibodaux." (41) Two years later by an amendment to the charter, the town limits were extended to include the lots owned by P.M. and J. Sargent, T. Chamberlain, and G. Barada Perret.(42)

In 1838, upon the adoption of a new charter providing for the administration of municipal affairs by a mayor and 4 trustees, the name of the town was changed to the present form.(43) Under this charter the first municipal election for a mayor and trustees was held on May 7, 1838, at the courthouse in Thibodaux.(44) Henry F. Knoblock, Judge of the Interior Parish of Lafourche, conducted the election which named James Mc Allister mayor by a vote of 44 to 2; Mathurin Bourg, Alexander Lawson, John C. Beatty, and J.A. Scudday were elected trustees.(45) The town council held its first meeting the following week at the law office of James Mc Allister.(46) In June the first revenue ordinance was approved.(47) The early ordinances were promulgated by posting copies in French and English for 10 days at the courthouse, the post office, and the tavern of Hubert Aucoin.(48) By November, however, arrangements had been made for the publishing of ordinances in the Thibodauxville Intelligencer.(49)

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36. Ibid., p. 3; Carter, Territorial Papers, p. 835.
37. Ibid., p. 750.
38. Record of Deeds, pp. 117, 57, 58, 80.
39. La. A., 1830, p. 134.
40. Ibid., sec. 2.
41. Ibid., sec. 1.
42. La. A. 1832, p. 162, sec. 1.
43. La. A., 1838, #67, secs. 1-3.
44. Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, vol. I, p. 5, hereinafter cited as Minutes, see entry 1.
45. Ibid., pp. 5, 6.
46. Ibid., pp. 6, 7.
47. Ibid., June 18, 1838, p. 12.
48. Ibid., p. 13.
49. Ibid., November 9, 1838, p. 18.

Historical Sketch (First entry, p. 53.)

A suitable meeting place for the governing body of the town was provided when, in 1840, a public market house was erected (50) on land donated by the widow of Henry S. Thibodaux.(51) A portion of this building was probably still in use as a council chamber as late as 1871.(52) Plans for the erection of a town hall began to materialize in 1879, when the mayor purchased for this purpose a lot on the corner of Green and West 4th Streets belonging to the Thibodaux Fire Company.(53) However, because of various delays, the contract for constructing the building was not awarded until 1885.(54) The cornerstone was laid on February 15, 1886,(55) and the building was opened to public inspection in March.(56)

Although Thibodaux had been the parish seat since its inception, (57) it did not finally become the permanent seat of justice until after a special election held May 3, 1852.(58) At this election the parish electorate voted to retain the parish seat at Thibodaux rather than to change it to a place known as the Theriot Land located about 10 miles below the town.(59) The sheriff was instructed to proclaim the results of the election "in a loud and intelligible voice in the English and French languages at the courthouse door."(60)

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50. Ibid., September 19, 1840, p. 50; ibid., October 4, 1839, p. 36. See also ibid., March 16, 1840, p. 38.
51. Ibid., p. 43, copy of act of donation by Bridget Bellanger dated September 18, 1839. Bridget Bellanger was the widow of H.S. Thibodaux. (Historical Biography.)
52. Minutes, June 6, 1871, vol. II, p. 174.
53. Ibid., March 13, 1879, vol. III, p. 206. See also Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Conveyances, vol. 18, (1877-1879), p. 772, see I. P. A. La. No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 15, p. 50.
54. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, December 1, 1885. See also Minutes, December 1, 1885, vol. IV, p. 128. In 1881 the town council was using an office leased from J. Badeaux. (Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, December 6, 1881.)
55. Cornerstone of City Hall, Thibodaux. The cornerstone lists F. Sancan, architect; L.C. Aubert, builder; I.D. Moore, Ellis Braud, and J.L. Aucoin, building committee.
56. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, March 20, 1886.
57. Thibodaux was designated the courthouse site as early as 1818, and the courthouse building was in existence in Thibodaux at least by 1838 when the municipal election was held there.
58. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Election Returns, May 6, 1852, see I. P. A. La. No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 77, p. 63.
59. Ibid. (Although there is no evidence to support this supposition, it is probable that the move to change the location of the parish seat came as a result of the construction of the railroad and the desire to have the parish seat nearer the railroad facilities. See historical sketch, transportation.)
60. La. A., 1852, #156.

The commercial life of Thibodaux received an early stimulus when, shortly after the incorporation of the Union Bank of Louisiana in 1832, (61) the town was designated as one of 8 discount and deposit offices. (62) Likewise, because of its strategic position on Bayou Lafourche, Thibodaux appears to have become a shipping point of considerable importance. Most of the sugar and molasses from Terrebonne Parish passed through the town on its way to a market, and the return freight and supplies came by the same route.(63) In 1846, 8,000 hogsheads of sugar and as many barrels of molasses were shipped from the wharves at Thibodaux.(64) Moss and cotton were also sent from this point.(65) An estimate of the growth of the town by 1846 can be formed from the following figures. In that year taxable property in Thibodaux was valued at $381,785.(66) The free school tax of ½% brought into the treasury $1,908.92. The corporation tax of ¼ per cent totaled $954.46. There were 12 dry goods merchants, 3 grocers, an apothecary, 5 physicians, 4 lawyers, 5 licensed drays, 3 hacks, 1 iron and 2 brass foundries, an engine and finishing shop, a sawmill, a lyceum, a printing office, a bank, a market, courthouse and jail, 2 copper, tin, and sheet iron shops, 2 jewellers, 2 gunsmiths, 2 saddlers, a shoemaker, 4 schools, 3 barber shops, 8 taverns, 6 coopering establishments, 3 blacksmith shops, an ice house, 2 coal and 2 lumber yards, 2 bakeries, 2 fruit and confectionery stores, 4 warehouses, 2 livery stables, 4 builders and contractors, a cabinet maker, 2 iron warehouses, and 3 churches, one Episcopal, one Catholic and one Methodist.(67)

With the outbreak of the War between the States, attention was sharply diverted from the normal civilian pursuits to the defense of the Confederacy. Several military companies drawn from Lafourche Parish were organized in Thibodaux.(68) On September 26, 1861, the Lafourche Creoles were mustered into service at the corner of Lower Canal and St. Bridget Streets by Colonel Valery Vicknair.(69) According to a

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61. La. A., 1832, p. 42.
62. Ibid.
63. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel. April 3, 1875.
64. /J.D.B. De Bow/, "The Parishes of Louisiana," De Bow's Commercial Review of the South and West, II (1846) 443, hereinafter cited as De Bow's Review.
65. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel. April 3, 1875.
66. De Bow's Review, II (1846) 443.
67. Ibid.
68. See I. P. A. La. No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), Historical Sketch, pp. 6,7. For an account of the campaign in 1862 in the Bayou Lafourche country see Jackson Beauregard Davis, "The Life of Richard Taylor," Louisiana Historical Quarterly, XXIV (1941), 71, hereinafter cited as Davis, "Taylor," La. H.Q.
69. Record of the Lafourche Creoles, A Military Company Organized in the year A.D. 1861 For Service in the Army of the Confederate States of America, p. 4, (manuscript in possession of Sidney R. Coulon, Thibodaux, Louisiana.)

contemporary account the increased enrollment in the Allen Rifles, a company named in honor of R.H. Allen of Lafourche, was due largely to the stirring addresses given by the Honorable Pierre Soule and the Abbe Menard at a barbecue in Thibodaux.(70)

The Federal campaign in the Lafourche District was directed towards the dispersement of the Confederate troops assembled along the western side of the Mississippi River (71) and along both banks of Bayou Lafourche. (72) Possession of this territory was vital to the security of the Union position in New Orleans, (73) which had been captured in April 1862.(74) Operations began with an expedition organized by Major General Benjamin F. Butler, which, under the command of Brigadier-General Godfrey Weitzel, landed at Donaldsonville on October 25, 1862.(75) A column of Union soldiers had been sent from Algiers (opposite New Orleans) along the Opelousas railroad to Thibodaux and Brashear (now Morgan) City in order to open the railroad and send supplies to Weitzel's forces.(76) On October 27, Weitzel's soldiers engaged the Confederate forces at Georgia Landing, about 11 miles above Thibodaux.(77) On the following day the Union forces entered Thibodaux.(78) Under the command of Brigadier-General Alfred Mouton, the Confederate soldiers, including the 18th Louisiana Regiment,(79) fired the "Thibodaux Bridge and the bridges at La Fourche Crossing and Terre Bonne Station" before retreating to Berwick Bay, which they reached on October 29.(80) The Federal troops arrived in time to prevent the total destruction of the two railroad bridges across Bayou Lafourche and Bayou Terrebonne,(81) and with the repair of these bridges and the one across Bayou Boeuf the railroad was then open all the way to Brashear City.(82) The Confederates had retired to Brashear City but found this position untenable and were forced to evacuate it.(83) Consequently the Union army was left in undisputed possession of the Lafourche country.(84) However, the Confederates maintained control of

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70. Winchester Hall, The Story of the 26th Louisiana Infantry in the service of the Confederate States, p. 2.
71. War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, series I, vol. 15, pp. 158,159, hereinafter cited as Rebellion Records.
72. Ibid., pp. 166, 167.
73. Davis, "Taylor," La. H.Q., p. 71.
74. Ibid., p. 68.
75. Rebellion Records, pp. 159, 161, 166, 167.
76. Ibid., p. 159.
77. Ibid., pp. 167, 168; Louisiana State Guide, pp. 576, 577.
78. Rebellion Records, p. 169.
79. Ibid., p. 167.
80. Ibid., p. 178.
81. Ibid., p. 169.
82. Ibid., p. 170.
83. Ibid., p. 161.
84. Ibid., pp. 170, 171. According to Brigadier-General Weitzel the Lafourche country by November 2, 1862, was "as safe to travel as Canal Street."

the territory along Bayou Teche and successfully repulsed a Federal advance on November 3. This action left the Southern forces in full control of Bayou Teche.(85)

No local records of naval engagements have been located, but there is evidence that at the beginning of the war Bayou Lafourche was fortified by the Confederate forces, "the works extending from swamp to swamp on either side of the bayou."(86) Federal operations in the Lafourche District seem to have been generally in the vicinity of Grand River.(87) At the close of the War between the States, a volunteer company of militia was organized in the Thibodaux district under the authorization of Colonel Louis Bush, commanding the militia of the parish of Lafourche.(88)

When civilian government was resumed in 1865, vacancies in the office of mayor and trustees for Thibodaux as well as all parish offices were filled by appointment of the governor.(89) At the first meeting of the newly organized town council the task of readjustment and reconstruction was begun. Recognizing the necessity of economy in expenditures, the mayor recommended a 50% reduction in the salaries of the town officials, including his own. Mindful also of the straitened financial status of the taxpayers, he suggested that no attempt be made to collect the unpaid taxes of the war years, and that a new assessment be effected based on the post-war value of property.(90) The statuary basis of the municipal government also required reorganization, since the record books, containing the minutes and ordinances, had been lost during the conflict.(91) A new set of municipal laws, suitable to the existing conditions, was speedily enacted.(92)

The effort towards post-war economic reconstruction is reflected in the extensive preparations in 1866 for the cultivation of sugar. Several

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85. Davis, "Taylor," La. H. Q., p. 71.
86. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, series 2, vol. 1, p. 649.
87. Ibid., series 1, vol. 19, p. 617; ibid., vol. 21, pp. 627, 642-43, 822-35.
88. Thibodaux Sentinel, November 11, 1865. For the oath of Louis Bush as colonel, recorded November 4, 1865, see Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Oaths of Office (August 8, 1864-September 10, 1870), p. 29, in Oath Book, see I. P. A. La., No. 29, Lafourche Parish, (Thibodaux), entry 42, p. 56.
89. Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23, 1865. The Federal authorities had confirmed the election of Governor Wells. (Thibodaux Sentinel, August 26, 1865).
90. Minutes, September 19, 1865, in Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23, 1865.
91. Thibodaux Sentinel, October 21, 1865.
92. Thibodaux Sentinel, November 11, 1865, Ordinance #3; ibid., November 25, 1865, #6; ibid., March 10, 1866, #8, 9, et seq.

idle plantations had been leased, and the fact that seed cane was selling at the high price of $2.00 an arpent did not deter purchasers.(93) At this time the value of lots and improvements in Thibodaux was $245,140.00; personal property was assessed at $12,700.00 and stock at $67,800.00, making a total assessed valuation of $325,640.00.(94) It is interesting to note that the following year land assessments had decreased to $241,710.00 and personal property to $2,500.00, but the increase in stock from $67,800.00 to $82,450.00 brought the total value to $333,660.00, an increase of $8,020.00 over the preceding year.(95)

By 1869 many improvements had been made in the conditions of the banquettes, (sidewalks) streets, and ditches of the town, and the Thibodaux Sentinel reported that "there is no where a tenement of any kind to rent whilst every day we see persons hunting for dwelling houses and offices without success."(96) The Thibodaux Foundry had been overhauled and refitted; the Sheet Iron and Tin Manufactory was building a complete open train for manufacturing sugar in addition to several granulating pans and other apparata; the brick yards were selling bricks as fast as they could be baked; and a new saw mill was being built.(97) Trade, especially in sugar, had begun to reestablish itself. Rice, sugar, vegetables, poultry, and produce from the agricultural country around Thibodaux were concentrated in the town for shipping via the flatboats on Bayou Lafourche. The produce tax paid in the parish during the fiscal year 1888-89 amounted to $3,387.00. Of the agricultural products raised in the parish there were sold from Thibodaux 9,710 sacks of rice, 126,350 barrels of sugar, 625 hogsheads of sugar, and 33,250 barrels of molasses.(98)

During the decade 1891 to 1900, Thibodaux's commercial and municipal services expanded to include two banks, a telephone exchange and a publicly owned waterworks system.(99) The Bank of Thibodaux was organized in 1891, and six years later the Bank of Lafourche was established. By 1900 the latter institution reported a capital stock of $25,000.00 with surplus and profits amounting to $11,615.00.(1) Telegraph communication was available to residents of the town as early as 1875 through the facilities of Western Union,(2) and by 1900 the locally owned and operated telephone company listed 150 subscribers

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93. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, November 24, 1866. By "$2.00 an arpent" is probably meant the quantity of seed cane necessary to plant a square arpent of land. An arpent is about 198 feet. (Smith, Population, p. 9)
94. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, August 10, 1867.
95. Ibid.
96. Ibid., July 17, 1869.
97. Ibid.,
98. New Orleans Sunday States, August 5, 1900.
99. Ibid.
1. Ibid.
2. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, September 18, 1875; see also ibid., October 9, 1875; Minutes, September 1, 1875, vol. III, p. 55.

(First entry, p. 53.)

and a capital stock of $25,000.00.(3)

The general prosperity of the town may be inferred from the fact that in 1895 the municipality undertook the construction of a publicly owned waterworks system. The plant, accepted May 3, 1895,(4) was financed by a 5 mill property tax approved in a special election held for the purpose.(5) Still operated under municipal supervision, the system has been recently improved by the installation of a 250,000 gallon storage tank costing $25,600.00.(6) A few years after the erection of the waterworks system, work was begun on an electric power and light plant, financed by a $15,000.00 bond issue. The tax upon which the bond issue was based did not become operative until the expiration of the waterworks tax in 1904.(7) By the turn of the century there were also in operation in Thibodaux an ice factory with a daily output of 40 tons, 3 foundries, a boiler works, a barrel factory, a brick factory, a bottling works, wholesale grocery, dry goods houses, and a warehouse.(8) The assessed valuation of property in Thibodaux by 1901 was $388,227.00,(9) a considerable increase over the 1888 figure of $249,765.00.(10) In the 10 year period from 1910 to 1920 the assessed valuation of personal property increased from $192,771.00 to $545,585.00.(11) From 1910 to 1940 the value of improvements to property rose from $31,535.00 to $1,571,360.00.(12) The total assessed value of property more than trebled between 1910 and 1920, amounting to $564,246.00 in 1910 and $1,896,070.00 in 1920.(13) Property assessment for 1940 was $2,229,380.00.(14)

Thibodaux today is supported by agriculture and by a more recent oil development.(15) As the main distribution and marketing point for the surrounding area, the town ships annually over 3,000 carloads of

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3. New Orleans Sunday States, August 5, 1900. See also Ordinance Book, Ordinance #113 adopted February 16, 1897, accepting the proposition to erect and operate a local telephone service, vol. II, p. 134, see entry 2.
4. Minutes, May 3, 1895, vol. V, p. 43.
5. Ibid., June 20, 1894, pp. 10, 11.
6. Ibid., July 30, 1940, vol. IX, pp. 28, 29; see also ibid., January 31, 1940, p. 6.
7. See Minutes, September 1, 1898, vol. V, p. 163 to June 2, 1899, p. 202.
8. New Orleans Sunday States, August 5, 1900.
9. Thibodaux Assessment Roll, 1901, p. 26, see entry 45.
10. Ibid., 1888, p. 14.
11. Ibid., 1910, p. 25; ibid., 1920, p. 27.
12. Ibid., 1910, p. 25; ibid., 1940, p. 37.
13. Ibid., 1910, p. 25; ibid; 1920, p. 27.
14. Ibid., 1940, p. 37.
15. Louisiana State Guide, p. 578; Lewis Bernard, A History of Thibodaux, Louisiana and Its Newspapers, School of Journalism, Louisiana State University, p. 10, hereinafter cited as Bernard, Newspapers. See also New Orleans Tribune, March 22, 1938.

cane, corn, potatoes, rice, onions, and truck produce.(16) Seven highways intersect in Thibodaux, and the town is served by 2 railroads, 5 bus lines, the Intracostal Canal System, and numerous truck lines.(17)

Population

The earliest records available (18) show the population of Thibodaux in 1844 to have been 430 inhabitants.(19) This figure more than doubled in the next 2 years.(20) Aside from the descendants of the original French and Spanish settlers and the Acadian immigrants,(21) there were also Irish and German inhabitants.(22) In 1850 the white population was 907, the negro, 335;(23) in 1860 the total number of inhabitants was 1,380--1,039 white, 39 free colored, and 302 slaves.(24) In 1867 the Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel listed a total population for Thibodaux of 1,182 persons, 752 white and 439 Negro.(25) Three years later the United States census reported 1,922 inhabitants, 1,149 of whom were white.(26) Of the total number, 143 were classified as foreign born.(27) The increase in the population figure and the number of foreign born may be in part attributed to the importation in October 1870 of 106 Chinese to work on the Leighton plantation located about 2 miles above the town.(28) In the next decade the population figure dropped to 1,515,(29) a factor in the decline probably being the yellow fever epidemic of 1878.(30) In 1890 the town comprised 2,078 persons,(31) which by the turn of the century numbered 3,253.(32) The census figure for 1910 was 3,824;(33) for

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16. Bernard, Newspapers, p. 10.
17. Ibid.
18. The census report for 1840 does not segregate the population of Thibodaux from that of the parish. (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Sixth Census, 1840, p. 60.)
19. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, April 3, 1875; De Bow's Review, II, 443.
20. Idem. In 1846 the population was 894.
21. Smith, Population, pp. 9-11.
22. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, April 3, 1875.
23. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census, 1870, I, 156. The Seventh Census, 1850, p. 385, gives no distinction as to race or color.
24. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Eighth Census, 1860, p. 195.
25. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, August 10, 1867.
26. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Ninth Census, 1870, I, 156.
27. Ibid.
28. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 15, 1870.
29. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Tenth Census, 1880, Population, p. 197.
30. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, August 10, 1878. See also ibid., December 7, 1878 and December 28, 1878.
31. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Eleventh Census, 1890, Population, pt. 1, p. 169.
32. Ibid., Twelfth Census, 1900, Population, I, pt. 1, p. 187.
33. Ibid., Thirteenth Census, 1910, Population, II, 766.

1920, 3,526;(34) for 1930, 4,442;(35) and by 1940 Thibodaux had passed the 5,000 mark.(36)

Transportation

The location of Thibodaux on Bayou Lafourche was no doubt a contributing factor to the early development of the town. The bayou was then a navigable stream which flowed from the Mississippi River at Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico. As the main artery of traffic for the region around Thibodaux, the bayou was deep enough to accomodate steamboats as well as the flat boats carrying farm produce.(37) Freight from Houma was transported to the town via Bayou Terrebonne, a smaller stream branching from Bayou Lafourche at Thibodaux and emptying into the Gulf. (38) By 1846 commerce along the water front was apparently sufficient to warrant the inclusion of a wharfinger as one of the municipal officials.(39)

The bridge at Thibodaux across Bayou Lafourche has a long and turbulent history. The first drawbridge across the stream was erected in

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34. Ibid., Fourteenth Census, 1920, Population, I, 227.
35. Ibid., Fifteenth Census, 1930, Population, I, 461.
36. Ibid., Sixteenth Census, 1940, Population, First Series, Number of Inhabitants, Louisiana, p. 3. The exact figure for 1940 is 5,851.
37. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 20; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, May 29, 1869. As late as 1900 the bayou was open to navigation for large steamers except for 2 or 3 months during the year when the water level was low. Even at the low water stage, the bayou could accommodate flatboats. (New Orleans Sunday States. August 5, 1900.)
38. R.A. Bazet, "Houma-An Historical Sketch," Centennial Celebration, Houma, Louisiana, May 10-13th, 1934, pp. 9, 37, hereinafter cited as Bazet, "Houma." La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 1, gives Bayou Terrebonne as the rear boundary of Thibodaux. According to Wm. H. Harris, Louisiana Products, Resources and Attractions (1881) p. 173, Thibodaux was situated at the junction of Bayou Terrebonne with Bayou Lafourche. For a map showing the course of Bayou Terrebonne, see T.G. Bradford, Louisiana, 1838. (photostatic copy of map in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.) Variations in the spelling of Bayou Terrebonne included: Bayou Derbone, (see Wm. Darby, A Map of the State of Louisiana with part of the Mississippi Territory from Actual Surveys. (1816) in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.); Bayou D'arbonne, (Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Record of Deeds (1808-1812) p. 80 in Conveyances, see I.P.A. La. No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 15, p. 50); Bayou Dearbon, (ibid., pp. 56, 58.); and Bayou d'Arbonne, (ibid., pp. 86, 87.) Bayou Terrebonne is no longer suitable for navigation; the upper part near Thibodaux is hardly more than a ditch and is used exclusively for drainage. (Bazet, "Houma", p. 37)
39. La., 1846, #153, secs. 16, 20.

1857 at a cost of $23,000.00.(40) Prior to this time, passengers and supplies were transported from one side to the other by a ferry.(41) Only 5 years after the completion of the bridge,(42) it was destroyed by the Confederate soldiers retreating from Lafourche Parish.(43) The bridge hastily constructed in its place by the Federal army was not a drawbridge, and consequently navigation of the bayou below Thibodaux was closed.(44) The Federal built bridge was in turn fired by the Union soldiers as they retreated in June 1863, but the destruction was not complete and the bridge was used until 1866, when it was torn down in preparation for the erection of another drawbridge.(45)

In the interval ferry service had to be resumed.(46) The ferry boat was docked at the head of Maronge Street, and the ferryman was bound to keep constantly at the landing a flat bottom boat large enough to cross four horses at a time, and a "commodious skiff" to accommodate foot passengers.(47) He was subject to a fine not exceeding $10 if any person were required to wait 15 minutes "after hallooing for the ferryman to cross him."(48)

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40. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 26, 1867. See also Minutes, December 15, 1854, vol. I, p. 251; La. A., 1855, #67, sec. 1; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, February 26, 1876. The bridge company was incorporated before a notary public under the authority of La. A., 1855, #131. A copy of the charter may be found in the Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel for March 4, 1876, and among the case papers, #10, 969, of the Police Jury of the Parish of Lafourche et al v. The Thibodaux Bridge Company in Liquidation, 44 La. Ann. 137 (1892). The capital stock of the company was fixed by the charter at $30,000, divided into 1200 shares of $25 each, with the privilege of increasing the stock to $35,000.
41. La. A., 1832, p. 162, sec. 4; La. A., 1855, #67, sec. 1. See also Minutes, October 14, 1839, vol. I, p. 37.
42. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 26, 1867; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, February 26, 1876.
43. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 26, 1867; see also Police Jury v. Thibodaux Bridge Company, footnote 40 above.
44. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 26, 1867; Minutes, September 19, 1865, vol. II, p. 46.
45. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 26, 1867. When the town council of Thibodaux was reorganized in 1865, the mayor called the attention of the trustees to the fact that the Thibodaux Bridge was "rapidly going to destruction". (Minutes, December 4, 1865, vol. II, p. 53.)
46. From 1862 to 1867 a ferry was operated across the bayou. (Police Jury v. Thibodaux Bridge Company. See also Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, November 17, 1866, Ordinance #20.
47. Ibid.
48. Ibid. The ferryman was obliged to cross jurymen and militia-men without charge, and licensed ministers of the gospel were also exempted from payment.

(First entry,p. 53.)

Work on the new bridge costing $24,000 was begun in April 1867 and completed in September of the same year.(49) The bridge was built by a stock company under the auspices of the police jury and the town council.(50) In 1892 it became the joint property of these governing bodies.(51) In 1921, however, as the result of a dispute over the question of abolishing toll fees entirely, the bridge was placed under the custody of the town, which was to bear all expenses and operate it as a free bridge.(52) Finally, in 1923 the Louisiana Highway Commission assumed the maintenance of the Thibodaux Bridge.(53)

Agitation for the construction of a railroad line to Thibodaux was begun as early as 1854,(54) when the New Orleans, Opelousas, and Great Western railroad, organized in New Orleans in 1852,(55) reached Lafourche Crossing,(56) about 4 miles below the town.(57) In 1855 the line reached Terrebonne Station (now Schriever) (58) about 3 miles from Thibodaux.(59) The proposition to build a branch line to join the railroad at Terrebonne Station was discussed at public and at council meetings on numerous occasions, notably in 1869, 1871, and 1877,(60) but the connecting link, making railroad transportation possible from

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49. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 26, 1867.
50. Ibid.; La. A., 1836, #70.
51. Police Jury v. Thibodaux Bridge Company, 44 La. Ann. 137 (1892). See also Lafourche Parish, Police Jury Minutes, November 15, 1906, vol. V, p. 12, hereafter cited as Police Jury Minutes, see I. P. A. La., No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 1, p. 47, and Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, October 23, 1917, vol. VI, p. 269.
52. Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, July 26, 1920, vol. VI, p. 381; ibid, October 8, 1920, p. 392; ibid, May 13, 1921, p. 432.
53. Police Jury Minutes, May 9, 1923, vol. VII, p. 180.
54. Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, December 15, 1854, vol. I, pp. 251, 252.
55. Southern Pacific Company, Historical Outline, p. 50. This railroad was incorporated in 1853. (La. A.,1853, #149, #345).
56. Bazet, "Houma", p. 33.
57. Highway Commission Map.
58. Bazet, "Houma", p. 33.
59. Louisiana State Guide, pp. 577, 580.
60. Minutes, October 20, 1869, vol. II, pp. 121, 122; ibid., December 7, 1871, p. 197. See also ibid., May 22, 1872, p. 223. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, September 1, 1877; Minutes, September 4, 1877, vol. III, p. 122.

Thibodaux to New Orleans, was not completed until 1879.(61)

Today, no main railroad passes through Thibodaux, but the town is connected with the Texas and New Orleans Railroad (a part of the Texas and Louisiana lines of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company) (62) by a 3 mile branch line tapping the main line at Schriever.(63) A branch of the Texas and Pacific railroad also serves Thibodaux.(64) However, neither of those lines provides passenger service.(65)

Schools

Public education in Thibodaux was given its first real impetus on April 22, 1847, when Judge George Seth Guion, a prominent sugar planter, who five years previously had been appointed as an administrator of the public schools in Lafourche Parish,(66) donated to the town authorities a tract of land "100 feet front on Jackson Street by 215 feet 9 inches in depth" for the specific purpose of "encouraging public education in the limits of the town."(67) Provision for a public school had been made as early as 1817 by an act incorporating the "congregation of St. Joseph,"(68) but the school was to be for the exclusive benefit of the inhabitants of the ecclesiastical parish of St. Joseph.(69) However, there was apparently a public school of a non-secular character in Thibodaux by 1828, for in that year the administrators of public schools were authorized by the state legislature to "sell the school house and lot in Thibodaux." (70)

After the Guion donation, a separate municipal school district was formed, for which state support was accorded on the basis of the number

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61. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, February 1, 1879. See also Minutes, May 6, 1879, vol. III, p. 212; ibid., April 9, 1878, pp. 151-153; Ordinance Book, Ordinance #57, adopted May 30, 1878, vol. II, p. 84; Minutes, December 27, 1878, vol. III, p. 192. For a copy of the agreement between the town and the railroad company, drawn up before a notary public on June 1, 1878, see Ordinance Book, vol. II, pp. 86-91. For a map showing the location of Terrebonne Station and of Morgan's Louisiana and Texas Railroad, see Bureau of Immigration, Map of the State of Louisiana (1885) on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.
62. Southern Pacific Company, Historical Outline, p. 3.
63. Louisiana State Guide, pp. 577, 580.
64. Highway Commission Map.
65. Texas and Pacific Railway, Time Tables, Issued October 12, 1941, table 7.
66. Police Jury Minutes, September 1842, vol. I, p. 31.
67. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Conveyances, vol. V, p. 143.
68. La. A., 1817, p. 94, sec. 8.
69. Ibid.
70. La. A., 1828, #87, p. 168.

of educable children in the Thibodaux district.(71) At this time, 1848, there were 124 children of school age in the town.(72) In 1849 the Guion Academy building, a 2-story brick structure(73) costing $3,000 (74) and capable of accomodating 150 pupils, was accepted by the municipal council.(75) The school was under the direction of the Reverend J. (or A.) Sandles (Sandels), who conducted the boys' department. Mrs. J. Rouvert was in charge of the girls.(76)

The school was administered by a board composed of six members, three of whom were elected at the regular municipal election, and three who were the members of the standing committee on education of the town council.(77) The board of directors of the Guion Academy held its first meeting on May 30, 1849,(78) with the following members present: G.W. Hunter, James A. Scudday, and Prosper Marchais, elected members,(79) and Winchester Hall, V.D. Terrebonne, and E. Murphy of the committee on education.(80) The Academy was a public school in the modern sense of the word, since it provided "gratuitous education of children of either sex who were white residents between the ages of 6 and 16."(81) Instruction was given in "spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, history, chronology, natural philosophy, chemistry, astronomy, and mathematics".(82) The boys and girls were taught in separate classes, and their playgrounds were separate.(83) The secretary of the "Corporation" (Thibodaux town) kept the minutes of the board, and the town treasurer kept a separate account for the Guion Academy.(84)

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71. La. A., 1848, #228. See also Minutes, June 19, 1847, vol. I, p. 159; ibid., December 8, 1847, p. 164; La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 3; La. A., 1847, #225, sec. 10.
72. Minutes, September 16, 1848, vol. I, p. 177.
73. Ibid., June 8, 1848, p. 171.
74. Ibid., July 13, 1848, pp. 171, 172.
75. Ibid., March 10, 1849, p. 184.
76. Ibid.; Record (Journal of the Board of Directors of the Guion Academy), May 30, 1849, p. 3, hereinafter cited as Journal, see entry 80.
77. Ibid., Ordinance for the establishment and organization of a public school in the town of Thibodaux, sec. 3, back of book, pp. 1-3, hereinafter cited as Public School Ordinance.
78. Journal, p.3.
79. Elected at municipal election May 7, 1849. (Minutes, May 8, 1849, vol. I, p. 189.)
80. Journal, p. 3; Minutes, May 12, 1849, vol. I, p. 190.
81. Public School Ordinance, sec. 1. Ordinarily, state supported public schools were requested to admit a certain number of indigent pupils free of charge, but the other pupils presumably paid tuition. (Henry E. Chambers, A History of Louisiana, I, 568.)
82. Journal, Rules for the Government of the School, rule #7, back of book, p. 3.
83. Public School Ordinance, sec. 1.
84. Ibid., secs. 4, 9.

The expenses of the Academy for the first year were $2,300.(85) During the session beginning in September 1849, there was an average attendance of 105 pupils--33 "males", 37 "females", and 35 "younger children."(86) In 1853 a French class was established at the Academy,(87) and in the same year a "chemical philosophical apparatus" was obtained for the use of the school.(88) An instance of the extensive use of the French language, even among the children taught in the public schools, was the ruling of the board of directors in 1857 that no child should be permitted to take lessons in the French language until he had been certified as having a sufficient knowledge of English.(89)

The school was closed when Thibodaux was captured by the Union forces during the second year of the War between the States,(90) and the building was not restored to the municipal authorities until 1865.(91) At this time directors of the school were appointed,(92) and four teachers were engaged for the school.(93) Two years later, however, because of financial difficulties, the town was no longer able to continue the support of the school, and the mayor was authorized to lease the Academy to any responsible person who would establish a private school.(94) Rent was to be payable to the town treasurer, and the council agreed to keep the building and fences in repair.(95)

The school was evidently rented to J.L. Field, a former principal of the "corporation school," since the Thibodaux Sentinel reported in November 1867 that Professor Field was conducting classes for boys in the Guion Academy building.(96) The girls were taught by Miss Sarah Niles.(97) The number of educable children (between the ages of 7 and 18) in this year was 332, 221 of whom were white and 111 Negro.(98)

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85. Minutes, May 25, 1850, vol. I, p. 199.
86. Journal, December 14, 1850, p. 13.
87. Ibid., August 17, 1853, pp. no longer numbered.
88. Ibid., May 12, 1853.
89. Ibid., February 14, 1857.
90. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 54. For an account of the campaign in 1862 in the Bayou Lafourche country see Davis, "Taylor," La. H.Q., p. 71.
91. Minutes, October 13, 1865, vol. II, p. 49. The Minutes for this date contain a copy of special order #80 of Major General E.R.S. Canby restoring the school to the municipality.
92. Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23, 1865. See essay on Board of Directors of Guion Academy, following.
93. Thibodaux Sentinel, November 4, 1865.
94. Minutes, August 29, 1867, vol. II, p. 82.
95. Ibid.
96. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, November 16, 1867.
97. Ibid.
98. Ibid., August 10, 1867.

(First entry, p. 53.)

In 1870 the Guion Academy was leased by the town council to Colonel Louis Bush for a term of " 5 years, 3 months and 24 days at the rate of $25 a year." The lease was to begin September 6, 1870 and to expire January 1, 1876. Oddly enough, at the same time the lease was made, the sum of $25 was appropriated by the town council "to be donated annually to Louis Bush for 5 years, 3 months, and 24 days." The colonel agreed to conduct a school in which all white educable children would be admitted on "paying monthly not more than $1, or $12 a scholastic year."(99) Apparently this method of financing the school did not prove adequate, for in 1871 it was necessary for the citizens of Thibodaux to subscribe money to insure its continued operation for that year.(1) There is further evidence that the Academy was forced to close down entirely at some time between 1871 and 1877.(2) Finally, on September 10, 1877, the Guion Academy was reopened with a faculty of three lady teachers.(3) In the following year, when a census of the third school district (Thibodaux) showed 539 educable children,(4) the financial difficulties of the institution were somewhat ameliorated through a donation of $300 from the Peabody Fund.(5) At the same time the school fund was augmented by $743.32 received from the state and parish,(6) and $349.50 which was raised through entertainments given by the faculty.(7) With this money the school was able to operate for a 9 months term.(8) The Guion Academy

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99. Minutes, September 5, 1870, vol. II, pp. 152, 153.
1. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, August 26, 1871.
2. Ibid., October 27, 1877.
3. Ibid., September 29, 1877.
4. Minutes, March 14, 1878, vol. III, p. 147.
5. Ibid.; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, August 10, 1878.
6. Minutes, March 14, 1878, vol. III, p. 147.
7. Ibid.; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, February 2, 1878.
8. Minutes, March 14, 1878, vol. III, p. 147. A reorganization of the public school system had been effected by an act of the legislature in 1874, (La. A., 1874, #122, sec. 1.) which abolished the municipal boards of school directors. A subsequent act of 1877 (La. A., 1877 E.S. #23, sec. 8.) provided that not only the school funds appropriated by the state should be paid to the parish treasurer, but all moneys raised, collected, or donated in the parish for the support of free schools should go also into the parish treasury. In Lafourche Parish, however, it was not until 1879 that the parish school treasurer requested the town treasurer of Thibodaux to remit all the money collected for the use of public schools in that municipality. (Minutes, June 3, 1879, vol. III, p. 214.) This action, in effect, placed all public schools directly under the control of the parish school board. But the town did not immediately relinquish its supervision. The town council continued to appoint its committee on public schools, (Minutes, December 7, 1880, vol. III, p. 272; ibid., November 28, 1894, vol. V, p. 31; ibid., December 28, 1886, p. 111; ibid., December 6, 1898, p. 175; ibid., June 4, 1901, p. 288; ibid., May 1, 1903, p. 334, et seq., which

continued to function until the Thibodaux High School, financed by a $50,000 bond issue,(9) was erected in 1912.(10) State approval was accorded in 1914.(11) By 1934, the high school building, which housed the elementary department as well, was so overcrowded that an election was held in school district #1 to authorize the construction of a building to be used as a high school only.(12) The $62,145 structure was accepted September 6, 1935.(13) The former building is now in use as a grammar school.

As the people of the state of Louisiana had not taken kindly to the idea of public schools,(14) so had the people of Thibodaux raised strong objections to being taxed for the support of public education.(15) Private and parochial schools, it seems, were much more in favor, especially in an almost entirely Catholic community such as

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8. (cont.) received the authorization of the parish school board to act as local directors for the Thibodaux schools.(Minutes, December 7, 1880, vol. III, p. 272.) Until 1912, when the Thibodaux public schools were finally merged with the parish school district #1, (Minutes, August 23, 1912, vol. VI, p. 8.) the town periodically appropriated sums toward the maintenance of the local schools. (Lafourche Parish, Superintendent of Education) Record (Minute Book) January 20, 1902, vol. I, p. 107, hereinafter cited as School Board Minutes, see I. P. A. La., No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 196, p. 85. See also Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, December 28, 1896, vol. V, p. 111; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed February 8, 1901, vol. II, p. 183.) Taxes levied by the town for school purposes were turned over to the parish school board to be used to pay adequate salaries to the teachers of the Guion Academy. (Ordinance Book, Resolution passed September 3, 1907, vol. II, p. 204.) Even as late as July 1912 the sum of $3,000 was appropriated to the parish school board toward defraying cost of furniture for the district high school, then in course of construction. (Minutes, July 12, 1912, vol. VI, p. 3.) In 1914, however, the balance of money in the municipal school fund was transferred to the general fund. (Ordinance Book, Resolution passed March 10, 1914, vol. II, p. 259.) Upon the adoption of a new municipal charter in 1918, provision was made for the appropriation of 3 mills of the property tax to the parish for the maintenance of the public schools of the town. (La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 35. See also Ordinance Book, annual appropriation ordinance #272, approved December 15, 1922, vol. III, p. 381.)
9. School Board Minutes, August 9, 1911, vol. II, p. 111, ibid., September 14, 1911, p. 123.
10. Thibodaux Sentinel, November 16, 1912.
11. School Board Minutes, January 14, 1914, vol. III, p. 71.
12. Ibid., November 14, 1934, vol. IV, p. 271.
13. Ibid., September 6, 1935, p. 317.
14. Chambers, A History of Louisiana, I, 565-568.
15. For a petition protesting the school tax see Minutes, September 16, 1848, vol. I, pp. 177, 178. See also ibid., October 16, 1848, p. 181.

Thibodaux. As early as 1855 a Catholic convent for girls under the supervision of the Sisters of Mount Carmel was established in Thibodaux.(16) By 1869 as many as 80 pupils were enrolled at the school.(17) In 1900 the present Mount Carmel Academy building costing $16,000 was completed,(18) and five years later the school celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.(19) The convent has been a state approved high school since 1926.(20) The elementary division, inaugurated in 1910,(21) reported for the session 1940-41 an enrollment of 42 boys and 109 girls under the supervision of five instructors.(22) For the same session the high school section with four teachers enrolled 36 girls.(23) There is also an elementary Catholic school for Negroes in Thibodaux, known as St. Luke's School. The enrollment for the 1940-41 session was 64 boys and 63 girls. There are three instructors at the school.(24)

Thibodaux College, a state approved high school for boys(25) under the direction of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart,(26) began at a private school conducted by Professor Charles Schefferstein.(27) The school was incorporated in 1859;(28) two years later the management was assumed by St. Joseph's Church, although classes were taught by lay teachers.(29) The enrollment at this time was 42 pupils.(30) Between

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16. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 395.
17. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 61.
18. New Orleans Sunday States, August 5, 1900.
19. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, October 14, 1905.
20. Charles Omer Naquin, History of the Town of Thibodaux, the Capitol City of the Sugar Belt of America, pp. not numbered, (manuscript in possession of Charles Omer Naquin, Thibodaux, Louisiana), hereinafter cited as Naquin, History of Thibodaux.
21. Ibid.
22. Superintendent of the Archdiocesan School Administration, Sixth Annual Report of the Archdiocesan Schools, 1940-41, p. 21, hereinafter cited as Sixth Annual Archdiocesan Report.
23. Ibid., p. 22.
24. Ibid., p. 21.
25. State Department of Education of Louisiana, Ninety-First Annual Report for the Session 1939-40, p. 225.
26. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585.
27. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 54. In some sources the name is spelled Schifferstein.
28. La. A., 1859, #98, secs. 1, 2; Goodspeed Publishing Company, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana, I, 118, hereinafter cited as Goodspeed, Louisiana, gives 1859 as the date of establishment of the school. Members of the board of directors were Charles Schefferstein, president, and Louis Bush, L.S. Allain, P.E. Lorio, E.L. Lashbrook, F. (E.) P. Porche, and Thomas Harang. (La. A., 1859, #98, sec. 2.)
29. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 54. The act of incorporation of Thibodaux College had given the president and his successors the right to transfer their power and interest with the approval of the board of directors. (La. A., 1859, #98, sec. 2.)
30. Naquin, History of Thibodaux.

1862 and 1865, the period of occupation by Federal troops, the college was closed.(31) In September of the latter year, Charles Schefferstein reopened a boarding school.(32) Since classes were conducted at Professor Schefferstein's residence and the professor himself was the only instructor,(33) this reopening may have been only the resumption of private instruction and not a continuation of the activities of the Thibodaux College. However, in 1867, according to the Thibodaux Sentinel, Messrs. Hargis and Knobloch were conducting a school for boys in the "Parish Buildings--the former Schefferstein's College,"(34) and the following year their lease of the "Thibodaux College Buildings" was renewed by the police jury.(35)

In 1869 the Thibodaux College was purchased from the parish for $800.00 by the Reverend Charles M. Menard,(36) and it is highly probable that it was on this property that he conducted the St. Aloysius' Male Academy which opened in that year.(37) The professors at St. Aloysius' were Arthur Knobloch and Levy Hargus,(38) former teachers at the Thibodaux College. The courses of instruction embraced three departments, the primary, the intermediate, and the academy proper; and in addition an exclusively commercial course was offered.(39) Although the school was operated under the direction of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, "differences in religious opinion" were "not regarded in the admission of pupils who would conform to the general regulations of the school."(40) Fifty scholars were enrolled when the session opened in 1869.(41)

In 1872 the Thibodaux College was relocated on a tract of land just outside the town limits.(42) Later a 2-story school building was erected on the site of the present "Beau Sejour", residence of Monsignor A.M. Barbier.(43) The present Thibodaux College was built at a cost

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31. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 56.
32. Thibodaux Sentinel, August 26, 1865.
33. Ibid.
34. Ibid., November 16, 1867.
35. Police Jury Minutes, December 7, 8, 1868, vol. III, pp. 150,152.
36. Ibid., March 1, 1869, p. 154; ibid., March 2, 1869, p. 170.
37. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585; Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 61; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, March 20, 1869.
38. Ibid.
39. Ibid.
40. Ibid.
41. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 61.
42. This property was purchased for $5,000.00 by Father Menard. The Thibodaux Female Institute, directed by Shubal Tenney, was formerly located on this site. (Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Conveyances, vol. 14, p. 473. See also Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, May 11, 1889.)
43. Charles Omer Naquin, Notes on Interview with Charles Omer Naquin by Lucy Pellegrin, p. 1. (Copy on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.) See also Goodspeed, Louisiana, I, 241.

of $300,000 on land donated in 1911 by Mrs. Cecelia T. Blake, granddaughter of Henry S. Thibodaux.(44) Since 1912 the school has operated under the direction of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.(45) For the session 1940-41 the combined enrollment for the elementary and high school departments was 169 boys.(46)

Other private schools in and around Thibodaux were St. Valery's primary school, which opened in 1869 with 35 pupils under the direction of Misses Odile and Emeline Naquin;(47) the St. Charles Day School established near Thibodaux in 1874 by the Sisters of Mt. Carmel and discontinued in 1912;(48) the Thibodaux Female Institute, supported by the Presbyterian Church,(49) and in operation sometime before 1867;(50) and St. John's Day School, known at first as the "Ecole St. Jean,"(51) located about 4 miles above Thibodaux. This school was inaugurated in 1876 by Father Menard with the assistance of two Sisters of Mt. Carmel. It has been in its present location since 1913, and is still conducted by members of this religious order.(52)

Churches

The Roman Catholic faith is the prevailing religion among the French-speaking inhabitants of Lafourche Parish. The first church in the parish, St. Joseph's Catholic Church,(53) was founded in Thibodaux in the year 1817.(54) The preceding year (1816) Jean Baptiste Hebert donated to the Catholic Church and to the inhabitants of Thibodaux 12 acres of land as a site for a Catholic Church,(55) and in 1817 the "Congregation of the Catholic Church of St. Joseph" was incorporated.(56) A frame church building was completed in 1819, and pews were auctioned off

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44. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585; Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Conveyances, October 11, 1911, vol. 44, pp. 108,109. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 13.
45. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585.
46. Sixth Annual Archdiocesan Report, pp. 20, 22.
47. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585; Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 61.
48. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 455.
49. Louis Voss, comp., Presbyterianism in New Orleans and Adjacent Points, p. 98, hereinafter cited as Voss, Presbyterianism.
50. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, November 16, 1867.
51. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 587.
52. Ibid., pp. 455, 587.
53. Goodspeed, Louisiana, II, 241; Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 292.
54. La. A., 1817, p. 94.
55. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 292.
56. La. A., 1817, p. 94.

to the highest bidders.(57) The first resident priest was assigned to Thibodaux in 1822.(58)

In 1845 Father Menard was appointed to St. Joseph's, beginning a pastorate that was to last fifty years.(59) Two years after his arrival the construction of a brick church was begun which was completed in 1849 (60) at a cost of $120,000.(61) A 1,220 pound church bell was blessed on December 15, 1850,(62) and the following year an organ was installed,(63) which was played by Professor Emanuel Chol, a native of France.(64) The art work in the interior was the work of Philostre,(65) and the hand-carved pulpit hewn by Joseph Koerle, a German wood carver, reputedly from a mahogany log salvaged from the bayou,(66) was regarded as one of the finest examples of wood carving in the United States.(67) Father Menard declined to exhibit the pulpit at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876, stating that any damage sustained would be irreparable.(68)

On May 25, 1916 this historic structure with its paintings and its mahogany pulpit was destroyed by fire;(69) the belfry alone escaped the flames.(70) The basement of the Thibodaux College was used for divine services until the old St. Joseph's Hall was remodeled into a temporary church.(71) In 1917 (72) Father Barbier, appointed pastor of St. Joseph's in 1911,(73) purchased a piece of property in the heart of Thibodaux, and construction of a church was begun on this site in 1920.(74) The present $300,000 stone-trimmed, pressed brick Renaissance

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57. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 292. The custom of auctioning pews continued in Thibodaux until about two decades ago. See also Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 13.
58. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 293.
59. Ibid., p. 354; Father Menard resigned in 1895 and died the following year. (Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585.) There is a bust of the Very Reverend Canon C.M. Menard erected in memorial near his grave on the site of the former St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Louisiana state highway 29.
60. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 354.
61. New Orleans Sunday States, August 5, 1900.
62. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 45.
63. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585.
64. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 15.
65. New Orleans Sunday States, August 5, 1900.
66. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 15.
67. Louisiana State Guide, p. 578.
68. Ibid.
69. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585.
70. Louisiana State Guide, p. 578.
71. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 63.
72. Ibid., p. 62.
73. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585.
74. Ibid.; see also cornerstone of St. Joseph's Church.

structure was dedicated by Archbishop John W. Shaw in January 1923.(75) The former church bell, damaged by the fire, was recast and installed in the new church.(76) The interior of the church was not completed until 1931.(77)

In the vicinity of Thibodaux is St. John's Catholic Church, established in 1919.(78) There is also in Thibodaux St. Luke's Catholic Church for Negroes which is in charge of the Josephite Fathers. This church was organized in 1924,(79) the lumber from the old St. Joseph's Hall having been donated for the erection of the building.(80)

The Episcopal faith is the second largest denomination in the predominantly Roman Catholic community.(81) The congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church was incorporated as the "Parish of St. John's Church" in 1843,(82) and the following year the site for St. John's Church and the adjoining cemetery was donated by Judge George Seth Guion,(83) one of the charter members.(84) Credit for the establishment of the church is generally given to Leonidas Polk, the first Episcopal bishop in Louisiana, who made his home on Leighton Plantation (85) on the left side of the bayou 2 miles above the town. In honor of his zeal and his services to the Confederacy, the church was known as "The Church of the Fighting Bishop."(86) Polk was the owner of numerous slaves, and having become greatly interested in the spiritual welfare of the Negroes, he appointed a special chaplain for colored communicants along Bayou Lafourche.(87)

The Presbyterian Church in Thibodaux was organized in 1837 with the Reverend S.H. Hazard as minister.(88) According to Louis Voss, this was the first Presbyterian church west of the Mississippi River.(89) At one

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75. Baudier, The Catholic Church, p. 585; Louisiana State Guide, p. 578.
76. Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 45.
77. Ibid., title page.
78. Catholic Action of the South, 1941, Annual Catholic Information Supplement, p. 17.
79. Baudier, The Catholic Church, pp. 528,529.
80. Ibid., p. 585; Memoirs of St. Joseph Church, p. 63.
81. Bernard, Newspapers, p. 9.
82. La. A., 1843, #129.
83. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Conveyances, vol. U, p. 204. See also bronze plaque in St. John's Church.
84. La. A., 1843, #129.
85. "St. John's Church, Thibodaux", The Diocese of Louisiana, October 1925, p. 52.
86. Ibid.
87. Gardiner L. Tucker, "How Our Church Came to Louisiana", How Our Church Came to Our Country, XXXIV, pp. not numbered.
88. Voss, Presbyterianism, pp. 38, 135.
89. Ibid., p. 98.

time it supported a Female College at Thibodaux.(90) After 1879 the church was most likely located on land donated by Joseph Scudday Goode. (91) The church building has twice been destroyed by cyclones.(92) The present brick building on Green Street was erected in 1927.(93) There is also a Baptist Church in Thibodaux, located at Bradford and Caroline Avenues, which was established in January 1936.(94)

Newspapers

The first newspaper known to have been published in Thibodaux is the Intelligencer and Lafourche and Terrebonne Advertiser, established in 1833 by Thomas Wilson.(95) The paper was published weekly in both French and English, the French issue being known as Le Nouvelliste et Moniteur de Lafourche et Terrebonne.(96) After 1835, when the Intelligencer was purchased by two Germans, Walter and Schoenberg,(97) it became the official journal of the neighboring parish of Terrebonne.(98) In 1838 its editors were commissioned to print the municipal ordinances of Thibodaux.(99) Publication was finally discontinued with the death of Schoenberg in 1839.(1)

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90. Ibid. This college was probably in existence at least prior to 1867. (Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, November 16, 1867.)
91. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, Wills and Donations, vol. A 2 (July 5, 1825-January 22, 1889), p. 185, see I. P. A. La. No. 29 Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 27, p. 52.
92. Voss, Presbyterianism, pp. 38, 135.
93. Plaque on wall at entrance to church.
94. Reverend Lawrence Thibodaux, Notes on Interview with Reverend Lawrence Thibodaux, by Louis Lefort. (Copy on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.) There is evidence of the existence of a Baptist Church in Thibodaux at least by 1890. See Ordinance Book, Resolution passed September 10, 1890 in relation to fire alarm bells being attached to various churches, vol. II, p. 110.
95. Myrtle Buckley Harper, The Country Press of Louisiana, 1794-1860, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Louisiana State University, p. 65, hereinafter cited as M.B. Harper, The Country Press. Winifred Gregory, ed., American Newspapers, 1821-1936, A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada, p. 246, hereinafter cited as Gregory, American Newspapers.
96. Idem.
97. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 65.
98. Terrebonne Parish, Police Jury, Minute Book, June 1, 1835, vol. A, p. 235, hereinafter cited as Police Jury Minutes, Terrebonne, see I. P. A. La. No. 55 Terrebonne Parish (Houma), entry 1, p. 47.
99. Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, November 9, 1838, vol. I, p. 18. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, May 29, 1875. In these sources the names are spelled Walther and Schoonburg.
1. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 65.

(First entry, p. 53.) Historical Sketch

Apparently there was no newspaper in Thibodaux for a period of about two years after the Intelligencer was discontinued, for on June 22, 1841, the police jury of Lafourche appointed a committee to contract with a newspaper "as soon as it is established" for printing the proceedings of the police jury.(2) On July 19, 1841, the Patriot of Lafourche Interior was founded by James L. Cole and A. Lefevre.(3) This was a weekly newspaper also published in French and English.(4) From the time of the first issue, this publication was the official journal of Lafourche Parish.(5) Sometime in 1841(6) Lefevre sold his interest to Charles Dezauche.(7) Upon the death of Dezauche in 1844 the paper was purchased by William Liquorish, who changed the name to Gazette de Lafourche;(8) the Gazette continued to serve as the official journal of the police jury.(9) On October 1, 1845, Liquorish sold his printing equipment to Jona C. White, who used it to establish La Minerve de Thibodauxville.(10)

The Minerva, edited by White and Anderson, was the official organ of Lafourche Parish from 1846 to 1856,(11) and at intervals in that period it also served the same function for Terrebonne Parish.(12) In 1856 the Lafourche Union, established in 1855,(13) "was chosen as the

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2. Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, June 22, 1841, vol. I, p. 7.
3. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 65.
4. Ibid.
5. Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, September 6, 1841, vol. I, p. 11.
6. Ibid., September 7, 1841, p. 17.
7. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 65.
8. Ibid.
9. Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, June 3, 1845, vol. I, p. 127; ibid., June 4, 1845, p. 135.
10. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 66.
11. Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, June 7, 1847, vol. I, p. 201; ibid., June 9, 1847, p. 205; Election Returns, July 21, 1846, see I. P. A. La. No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 77, p. 63. Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, June 4, 1849, vol. I, p. 299; ibid., June 3, 1850, p. 329; ibid., June 3, 1851, p. 369; ibid., June 8, 1852, p. 421; ibid., June 7, 1853, vol. II, p. 18; ibid., September 4, 1854, p. 42; ibid., September 18, 1854, p. 48; ibid., June 5, 1855, pp. 54, 55.
12. Police Jury Minutes, Terrebonne, November 2, 1846, vol. A, p. 391; ibid., April 7, 1856, vol. B, p. 34.
13. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 66. Approximated from Lafourche Union, July 17, 1856, vol. 1, no. 44. The facts of its publication are confusing, the Lafourche Union for July 17, 1856 giving Jean Jacques Roman and Jas. A. Kennedy & Co. as publishers, M.B. Harper (pp. 66, 67) stating that from 1856-1859 the paper was edited by Henry Vignaud and that the publishers were Amat Britsch and J.D. Leahy, and the Lafourche Parish Police Jury Minutes for June 9, 1857 giving that "Britsch and Leahy, editors of the Lafourche Union shall be chosen parish printers for one year." (Police Jury Minutes,

official journal over the Thibodaux Minerva";(14) publication of the latter was discontinued in 1858.(15)

From 1860-1864 there appeared in Thibodaux the Banner of the Ironsides, the Confederate Banner, the Stars and Stripes, and the Union Guidon(16)--all of them apparently short lived.(17) The Confederate Banner was published by A.F. and Clay Knobloch and in 1862 was the official journal of Lafourche Parish and of Thibodaux.(18) Sometime around 1864 there was published in Thibodaux by Henry Ayer Gallup a newspaper called the Thibodaux Louisianian.(19) Between 1869 and 1871 there were published in Thibodaux the Lafourche Republican by A.H. Ross, the Lafourche Times, by John P. Hartman and William Murrell, and the Reformer by Henry Grimes.(20) Each of these three papers was at some time the official journal of Lafourche Parish.(21)

In 1887 two newspapers were founded in Thibodaux as opposing political organs during the gubernatorial campaign of Francis T. Nicholls. These were the Lafourche Democrat and the Lafourche Star. After the election of Nicholls these papers discontinued publication.(22)

The newspaper published continuously in Thibodaux for the longest period of time was the Thibodaux Sentinel. This paper seems to have

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13. (cont.) Lafourche, vol. II, p. 87.) The June 24, 1858 issue of the paper states that it is published by Amant Britson and John David Leahy. In 1859 the paper was sold to Arthur Knobloch (M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 67; Lafourche Union, February 29, 1860.) and the new editor was de la Bretonne. (M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 67.) The date this paper ceased publication is not known, although an issue for March 7, 1860 is extant. (Ibid.)
14. Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, June 2, 1856, vol. II, p. 64.
15. M.B. Harper, The Country Press, p. 66.
16. Gregory, American Newspapers, p. 246.
17. Clifton Edward Harper, The Country Press of Louisiana, 1860-1910, Unpublished Master's Thesis, Louisiana State University, p. 131, hereinafter cited as C.E. Harper, The Country Press.
18. Mary Westcott and Allene Ramage, comps., Bibliographical Contributions of the Duke University Libraries, A Checklist of United States Newspapers (and Weeklies before 1900) In the General Library, I, 155, hereinafter cited as Westcott and Ramage, Checklist of Newspapers.
19. Police Jury Minutes, Terrebonne, October 6, 1864, vol. B, p. 315.
20. Lafourche Parish, Clerk of Court, /Correspondance/, State's notices of contracts to the clerk of court, July 7, 1869, April 21, 1871, November 9, 1871, see I. P. A. La., No. 29, Lafourche Parish (Thibodaux), entry 84, p. 64. See also Police Jury Minutes, Lafourche, September 7, 1869, vol. III, p. 202.
21. Idem.
22. "Louisiana Newspaper Historical Sketches, Thibodaux," Pelican Press Messenger, June 1938, hereinafter cited as Pelican Press Messenger.

been established in 1861 (23) but suspended publication during the War between the States.(24) In 1865 it was revived by Francois Sancan, who, there is reason to believe, had edited the first Sentinel.(25) From its revival in 1865 the Sentinel was the official journal of Lafourche Parish and of Thibodaux.(26) It was edited by P.E. Lorio and published by Sancan, who was associated with the paper in various capacities (27) until his death in 1897.(28) In 1900, after H.H. Dupre became proprietor and publisher with S.M. Taylor as editor, the paper was no longer published in French.(29) W.S. Lafargue became editor in 1901 (30) and continued in this capacity until the paper discontinued publication in 1912.(31)

In 1889,(32) John B. Taylor, who had been managing editor of the Star,(33) established the Lafourche Comet,(34) the oldest paper in existence in Thibodaux. In 1923 Taylor gave over the management of the paper to his daughter and his son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Robichaux, who are the current publishers. Taylor continues to direct the policy of the Comet, however, and his name still appears as editor on the masthead.(35) Currently published in Thibodaux in addition to the Comet is the Commercial Journal, established in 1904 (36) by Francois L.

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23. George P. Rowell, American Newspaper Directory, 1872, p. 67; hereinafter cited as Rowell, Newspaper Directory; Gregory, American Newspapers, p. 246; C.E. Harper, The Country Press, p. 129. Goodspeed, Louisiana, I, 241 gives 1857.
24. C.E. Harper, The Country Press, p. 129.
25. Pelican Press Messenger; Thibodaux Sentinel, August 5, 1865, new series, vol. 1, no. 1, contains an editorial in which it is stated the "Thibodaux Sentinel, dead under the winds of adversity . . . . comes forth again alive today."
26. Thibodaux Sentinel, August 5, 1865.
27. Historical Records Survey, Louisiana Newspapers, pp. 221, 222.
28. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, January 30, 1897.
29. Ibid., July 28, 1900.
30. Ibid., December 14, 1901.
31. Gregory, American Newspapers, p. 246; information from issues on file at Bush Library, Courthouse, Thibodaux, Louisiana, last issue being that of December 7, 1912. Frank James Price, The Country Press of Louisiana, 1911-1940, gives 1915 as the date the Sentinel was discontinued.
32. Bernard, Newspapers, p. 23; Gregory, American Newspapers, p. 246; Ayer, firm, Philadelphia, N.W. Ayer and Son's Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals, 1941, p. 381, hereinafter cited as Ayer, Directory of Newspapers.
33. Lafourche Star, March 3, 1888.
34. Bernard, Newspapers, p. 23.
35. Ibid., p. 28; Historical Records Survey, Louisiana Newspapers, pp. 220, 221.
36. Ayer, Directory of Newspapers, 1941, p. 381.

Knobloch(37) and edited since 1930 by Charles N. Dupre.(38)

Fire Companies

Fire protection in Thibodaux had its beginning as early as January 3, 1843, when the mayor was authorized to have constructed at the expense of the "Corporation" 4 ladders, ranging from 15 to 30 feet, 2 roof ladders, and 2 fire hooks.(39) A $500 fire engine was purchased on April 3;(40) nine days later 250 feet of hose and 12 leather fire buckets were acquired;(41) and in November of the same year the first fire house was built at a cost of $106.45.(42)

In 1860, because of the large number of fires which had occurred in the business district, a zone was established in which no wooden buildings could be erected.(43) By this time the Thibodaux McAllister Fire Company #1, a consolidation of two earlier companies, reported an active membership of 50 firemen.(44) Later the name McAllister was dropped from the title,(45) and in 1872 the company was incorporated. (46) Firemen were exempted from military and from jury duty.(47) Some time prior to 1870 the Protector Fire Company #2 had come into existence, (48) and in 1874 the Home Hook and Ladder Company #1 was organized.(49) A fourth company, the Badeaux Bucket Brigade, later called the Thibodaux Bucket Brigade,(50) dated from 1887.(51) These companies operated as individual organizations (52) until 1895, when they were consolidated into one municipal fire department.(53) The first system of fire alarms was established soon after this consolidation.(54)

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37. Bernard, Newspapers, p. 29.
38. Ibid., p. 32.
39. Minutes, January 3, 1843, vol. I, p. 81.
40. Ibid., April 3, 1843, p. 83.
41. Ibid., April 12, 1843, p. 84.
42. Ibid., November 14, 1843, p. 97.
43. Ibid., February 23, 1860, p. 355; Ordinance #49, p. 356.
44. Minutes, May 11, 1860, vol. I, p. 564.
45. Ibid., February 5, 1866, vol. II, p. 55.
46. La. A., 1872, #55.
47. Ibid., secs. 1, 4. See also La. A., 1876, #52, #53.
48. Ordinance Book, vol. II, p. 55; see also Minutes, July 1, 1870, vol. II, p. 146 and ibid., August 5, 1870, p. 150. This company was incorporated in 1876, see La. A., 1876, #53.
49. Minutes, May 13, 1874, vol. II, p. 323; see also Ordinance Book, vol. II, p. 26. This company was incorporated in 1876; see La. A., 1876, #32.
50. Minutes, January 17, 1890, vol. IV, p. 351; ibid., February 14, 1890, p. 354.
51. Ibid., July 8, 1887, p. 231.
52. Ordinance Book, vol. II, pp. 24, 26, 55, 76.
53. Minutes, December 13, 1895, vol. V, p. 79.
54. Ibid., February 6, 1896, pp. 88, 89.

The town was subdivided into three numbered fire districts, and a code in alarm bells, a specified number representing each district, was established.(55) In 1914 an automatic fire alarm system was installed consisting of 20 alarm boxes having electrical contact with the Town Hall bell and the bell of the First Presbyterian Church.(56) The present fire department consists of four companies having a total membership of 231;(57) the value of fire department property amounts to $39,051.(58)

Historic Homes

In and around Thibodaux are many points of historical interest. Just outside the city are the ruins of the Ridgefield Plantation where the main building was destroyed by fire in January 1940.(59) According to Josephine H. Nicholls, daughter of former Governor Francis T. Nicholls and present owner of the home, Ridgefield was an established landmark in the parish in 1834 when it came into the possession of her maternal grandmother, Caroline Winder, not long after her marriage to George Seth Guion.(60) Francis T. Nicholls, first democratic governor of Louisiana after Reconstruction and later chief justice of the State supreme court, (61) acquired Ridgefield in 1905, and spent the last two years of his life there after his retirement from the bench.(62)

On the left of the bayou about 2 miles above Thibodaux is the site of the Leighton Plantation House where Leonidas Polk, first Episcopal Bishop of Louisiana, lived from 1842 to 1854.(63) Approximately 6 miles north of Thibodaux is the White Plantation House, birthplace of Edward Douglas White, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1910 to 1921.(64) The house has been converted into a memorial.(65)

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55. Ibid., p. 89. Fire alarms were attached to the bells of various churches, among which were the Moses Baptist Church on Jackson Street, the Little Zion Baptist Church, and the Methodist Episcopal Church on President Street. (Ordinance Book, Resolution passed September 10, 1890, vol. II, p. 110.)
56. Ordinance Book, Resolution adopted April 23, 1914, vol. II, p. 260; Minutes, April 23, 1914, vol. VI, p. 84; Ordinance Book, Ordinance #220 approved January 28, 1915, vol. II, p. 299.
57. Ernest Thibodaux, Notes on Interview with Ernest Thibodaux by Lucy L. Pellegrin. (Copy on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.)
58. Ibid.
59. Louisiana State Guide, p. 577.
60. Albert Proctor, "Ridgefield Plantation Echoes Brilliant Career of Louisiana Statesman, Soldier", Hammond Progress, September 9, 1938, hereinafter cited as Proctor, "Ridgefield".
61. Louisiana State Guide, p. 577.
62. Proctor, "Ridgefield". Nicholls had married Caroline Guion, daughter of Caroline Winder and George Guion, in 1860.
63. Ibid., p. 577.
64. Ibid., p. 576. The grave of the father of Edward Douglas White is in the Catholic Cemetery at Thibodaux. (Tombstone, Catholic Cemetery.)
65. Louisiana State Guide, p. 576.

Historical Sketch (First entry, p. 53.)

Across the bayou from Thibodaux is Rienzi Plantation House, built according to legend at the close of the eighteenth century at the request of Queen Maria Louisa of Spain.(66) At one time the home belonged to Judge Richard H. Allen, prominent Louisiana jurist in the period after the War between the States.(67)

On the south side of Thibodaux is Acadia Plantation, built towards the middle of the nineteenth century by relatives of Francis Scott Key. (68) After Thibodaux was captured by the Union forces in 1862, this plantation was converted into a camp for the Federal soldiers who occupied the region.(69) Also in the vicinity of Thibodaux are the homes of Confederate Generals Braxton Bragg(70) and P.G.T. Beauregard.(71)

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66. Ibid., p. 578.
67. Ibid., Charles W. Price, Jr., "Rienzi Mansion on Bayou Lafourche, Relic of Intrigue, Lost Dreams and Empire," Hammond Progress, March 18, 1938.
68. Louisiana State Guide, p. 579. Philip Barton Key, born in Maryland in 1804, and owner at one time of Acadia Plantation, is buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Thibodaux. (Tombstone in Catholic Cemetery)
69. Naquin, History of Thibodaux.
70. Louisiana State Guide, p. 576.
71. Rex Laney, ed., Do You Know Louisiana? (1938), p. 263. For a description of Louisiana plantation homes along Bayou Lafourche see Herman de Bachelle Seebold, Old Louisiana Plantation Homes and Family Trees, I, 195-205.

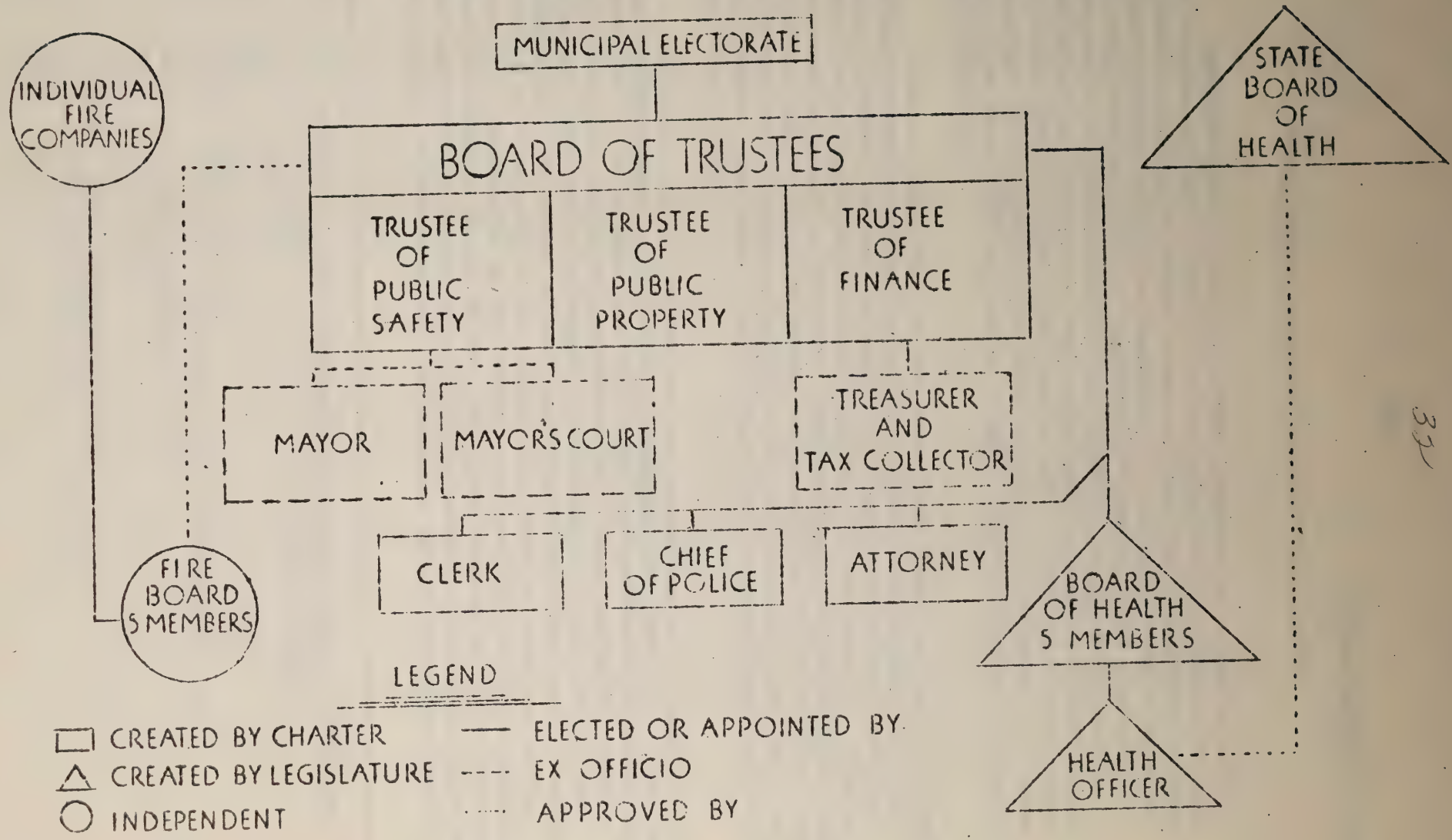
CHART OF THIBODAUX GOVERNMENT

AND

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

AND RECORDS SYSTEM

CHART OF TOWN GOVERNMENT
OF THIBODAUX, LA.



(First entry, p. 53.)

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Municipalities in Louisiana were incorporated by special act of the legislature until 1896.(1) In that year the legislature provided a general procedure by which cities and towns could adopt new charters without special legislative sanction.(2) The charter was to be drawn up locally and would become operative if adopted by the electors of the town or city concerned.(3) The constitution of 1898 expressly prohibited the legislature from passing special municipal charter acts for towns with less than 2,500 population,(4) and successive constitutions have reiterated this restriction upon the legislature.(5) Towns and cities over 2,500 population, however, are still subject to special legislation.(6)

Since municipalities of less than 2,500 population could no longer be incorporated by special legislative action, the legislature in 1898 passed a general charter law setting up a mayor and council or aldermanic form of government for municipalities in the State.(7) This law was purely optional in its effect both on unincorporated villages, towns, or cities and on already chartered municipalities.(8) Cities and towns which had adopted charters by the act of 1896 were not disturbed. On the contrary, they were allowed to make other and additional changes in their charters.(9)

Under the law of 1898 hamlets and unincorporated villages may become incorporated upon presenting to the governor a petition, signed by two-thirds of the electors, setting forth the boundaries of the village and stating the number of inhabitants.(10) Towns previously incorporated are permitted to come under the provisions of the act of 1898 after a petition to that effect, signed by 25 qualified voters, has been ratified by a majority of the voters in an election held for the purpose.(11) The results of the election are certified to the secretary of state and recorded in his office.(12) Upon the receipt of the petition for incorporation, in the case of unincorporated villages, and upon the notification of the result of the election, in the case of previously

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1. R.L. Carleton, Local Government and Administration in Louisiana, p. 94, hereinafter cited as Carleton, Local Government.
2. La. A., 1896, #135.
3. Ibid., secs. 1, 3.
4. Const., 1898, art. 48.
5. Const., 1913, art. 48; Const., 1921, art. IV, sec. 4.
6. Carleton, Local Government, p. 95.
7. La. A., 1898, #136.
8. Ibid., secs. 11, 40.
9. Carleton, Local Government, p. 95.
10. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 11.
11. Ibid., sec. 40.
12. Ibid.

chartered towns, the governor issues his proclamation declaring the village or town a corporate body and designating its class.(13) Such proclamations are filed in the office of the secretary of state (14) and recorded in the municipality.(15)

For the purposes of the law of 1898, municipalities are classified as cities, towns, or villages according to their population. Those having 5,000 or more inhabitants are termed cities, those containing from 1,000 to 5,000 are towns,(16) and those having less than 1,000 but more than 150 are villages.(17) Cities must be divided into four wards; towns may or may not be divided into wards at the discretion of the council;(18) and villages may not be divided into wards.(19) Cities may have from five to nine aldermen, towns five, and villages three.(20)

According to the mayor-aldermen plan, municipal authority is vested in a mayor and aldermen, who compose the town council or governing body. The only other popularly elected official is the marshal.(21) The other offices, such as the clerk, treasurer, tax collector, attorney, and street commissioner are selected by the council.(22) Several combinations of these offices are possible. The marshal is ex officio constable and chief of police,(23) and he may be tax collector or assessor or both.(24) The street commissioner may be an alderman(25) or he may be the mayor.(26) The clerk is also auditor.(27) He may be an alderman, and he may act as

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13. Ibid., secs. 11, 41. Proclamations incorporating hamlets and villages also defined the limits of the incorporation. (Ibid., sec. 11.)
14. Ibid., sec. 11. See also Louisiana, Secretary of State, Record of Charters, 1898--.
15. La. A., 1898, #136, secs. 12, 41.
16. Ibid., sec. 1.
17. Ibid., as amended by La. A., 1914, #35.
18. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 18.
19. Carleton, Local Government, p. 97.
20. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97.
21. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid., sec. 25.
24. Ibid., sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97. According to the act of 1898, section 19, the marshal could also be street commissioner, but this provision was not reinacted in the amendatory act of 1900. Part of section 19 of the 1898 statute states that "in towns and villages the marshal shall be the tax collector, and may be in a city". Another part of the same section states that the marshal may be a tax collector if the mayor and board of aldermen so elect. The act of 1900 made clear that the consolidation of the offices of marshal and tax collector is purely optional.
25. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97.
26. Carleton, Local Government, p. 97.
27. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 37.

(First entry, p. 53.)

tax collector or assessor.(28)

Municipalities which do not choose to come under the provisions of this general charter act may amend their charters after publishing the proposed amendment for three weeks and securing the approval of the governor.(29) Approved amendments are recorded in the office of the secretary of state as well as in the books of the municipality.(30)

In 1910 the legislature by a general charter act provided for a commission form of municipal government.(31) This charter act was likewise optional and was superseded in 1912 by an improved optional general charter law on the commission form.(32) Subsequent adoptions of the act of 1910 were prohibited,(33) but municipalities already organized under this plan were not disturbed.(34) In addition, such cities were given the option of voting to come under the provisions of the new act.(35)

Only towns having a population of 2,500 or over, and cities having a population of 5,000 or over, are permitted to operate under the commission form of government.(36) The proposition to organize as a city under this act must be submitted to a special election. If the results of the election are favorable, cities of 25,000 or over, classed as cities of the first class, elect a mayor and four councilmen at the first regular city election after the adoption of the act. Cities of 5,000 or over and towns of 2,500 or over, classed as cities of the second class, elect a mayor and two councilmen. Cities having a population of 10,000 or over and which operate all of their public utilities elect a mayor and four commissioners.(37) The act does not become effective until the terms of the incumbent officers have expired.(38)

Cities adopting the commission plan retain all power conferred on them by previous charters or laws which are not inconsistent with,

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28. Ibid., sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97.
29. Ibid., sec. 43.
30. Ibid.
31. La. A., 1910, #302 as amended by La. A., 1914, #208; La. A., 1918, #100; La. A., 1926, #155 and #170; and La. A., 1932, #156.
32. La. A., 1912, #207; Carleton, Local Government, pp. 101, 102.
33. Ibid., p. 102.
34. La. A., 1912, #207, sec. 22.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid., sec. 1.
37. Ibid., sec. 2.
38. Ibid., secs. 5, 21.

contrary to, or in conflict with the provisions of the act of 1912.(39) Moreover, all cities which under their former charters were exempt from the payment of parish taxes remain exempt after the adoption of the new charter.(40) A city which has adopted the commission plan is permitted to resume its original charter after it has operated under the commission plan for 6 years and providing that a majority vote at a special election held for the purpose signifies the desire to return to the former charter.(41)

The basis of the commission plan of government is the division of municipal functions into departments, each of which is conducted by a commissioner who is responsible for his particular department.(42) In cities of the first class the departments of the government comprise those of (a) public affairs and public education, (b) accounts and finance, (c) public health and safety, (d) public utilities, and (e) streets and parks. In such cities the mayor acts as commissioner of public affairs and public education.(43) A city of the second class has the same divisions with the omissions of the department of public affairs and public education and the department of public utilities. The mayor acts as commissioner of public health and safety.(44) Cities with a population of 10,000 or over which operate their own public utilities employ the same divisions as a city of the first class.(45) The municipal officers under a commission plan of government include an attorney, a secretary-treasurer and tax collector, a chief of police, an auditor, a civil engineer, a city physician, and any other officers judged necessary by the board of commissioners.(46) Cities of the second class appoint only such officers as they deem expedient.(47) Although the legislature in 1918 provided an optional commission-manager plan of government,(48) no city in Louisiana has adopted this plan.(49)

The legal status of a municipality as the result of the charter system may be summarized as follows. The charter of a municipality is granted at the instance of its inhabitants, and it provides the framework of government investing the electorate of the incorporation with the local government thereof.(50) A municipality has no powers except those delegated by State authority, and these are usually defined in

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39. Ibid., secs. 4, 20.
40. Ibid., sec. 20.
41. Ibid., sec. 10 as amended by La. A., 1922, #29.
42. La. A., 1912, #207, sec. 2.
43. Ibid., sec. 4.
44. Ibid.
45. Ibid., sec. 2.
46. Ibid., sec. 8.
47. Ibid.
48. La. A., 1918, #130.
49. Carleton, Local Government, pp. 106-109.
50. Ibid., pp. 70, 82.

the charter.(51) However, the charter itself is not a contract within the sense of constitutional provisions prohibiting the impairment of contracts, as the legislature retains full authority to amend municipal charters and to enlarge or diminish the powers granted by it.(52)

Thibodaux was incorporated by a special act of the legislature in 1830.(53) This charter fixed as the governing authority a board of five trustees.(54) A new charter, enacted in 1838, placed the control of the municipality in the hands of a mayor and a board of four trustees.(55) In the period from 1838 until the adoption of the general charter act of 1898, several amendatory and supplementary acts to the charter were passed, but no radical change was made in the organization of the governing body.(56) The membership of the board was increased to seven, including the mayor, in 1846;(57) the term of office was extended from one year to two years in 1876,(58) and the dates of regular elections were changed several times;(59) but aside from a few additional minor changes, the powers and functions of the government remained substantially the same.

The general charter act of 1898 was adopted by the town of Thibodaux in 1900.(60) The principal changes involved the extension of municipal powers(61) and the provision that the marshal should be a popularly elected official.(62) Thibodaux operated under this general act and the various amendments thereto until 1918, when a special act of the legislature granted the commission charter under which the town is presently organized.(63)

Government in Thibodaux is divided into three departments: public safety, finance, and public property.(64) The head of each department is

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51. Claudius O. Johnson, Government in the United States, p. 502.
52. Carleton, Local Government, p. 95. For a detailed treatment of municipal government in Louisiana see Carleton, Local Government, pp. 94-109.
53. La. A., 1830, p. 134.
54. Ibid., sec. 2.
55. La. A., 1838, #67, secs. 1-3.
56. La. A., 1846, #153; La., A., 1848, #228; La. A., 1861, #70; La. A., 1865, E.S., #23; La. A., 1876, #38; La. A., 1898, #76.
57. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 10.
58. La., A., 1876, #38, sec. 1.
59. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 2; La. A., 1876, #38, sec. 1; La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38.
60. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
61. La. A., 1898, #136, secs. 14-17.
62. Ibid., sec. 19.
63. La. A., 1918, #266. This charter act was adopted by the people of Thibodaux at an election held for the purpose. (Minutes, September 25, 1918, vol. VI, p. 294.)
64. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 3, 13.

elected by regular municipal election every four years.(65) The three trustees are the only elected officials. All other officers are considered municipal employees and as such are subject to removal at any time without cause.(66) Together the three trustees comprise a board which acts as the legislative and advisory body of the town.(67) The board has no judicial powers except when acting as a board of review in cases involving the dismissal of the clerk or the chief of police.(68) Cases involving the violation of municipal ordinances are tried before the mayor's court, which is presided over by the trustee of public safety in his ex officio capacity as mayor.(69) Fines are limited to $100 in amount, and imprisonment may not exceed thirty days.(70) A municipal jail is located in the City Hall. Provision is made in the charter for the creation of a city judge when the town shall have been placed in the class of a city or at any time previous with the concurrence of the police jury.(71)

The division of public safety comprises the police, fire, street, and health departments.(72) The chief of police is elected by the board of trustees,(73) but he is subject to suspension by the trustee of public safety and is governed by the orders and instructions of that official.(74) The chief has supervision over such additional policemen as may be employed.(75) The fire department consists of four volunteer fire companies operating under the control of a fire board of which the trustee of public safety is ex officio chairman.(76) As ex officio head of the street department, the trustee of public safety supervises the repair and maintenance of streets.(77) The activities of the board of health, of which the trustee of public safety is a member,(78) have been in the main discontinued since the establishment of a parish health unit within the corporate limits.(79)

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65. Ibid., secs. 4, 5.
66. Ibid., sec. 21. An exception is made in the case of the clerk and the chief of police, see essays on these offices, following.
67. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 3, 10.
68. Ibid., sec. 14 f.
69. Ibid., sec. 38.
70. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 31, and sec. 29; La. A., 1904, #91; La. A., 1910, #160; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
71. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 38.
72. Ibid., sec. 14.
73. Ibid., sec. 5.
74. Ibid., sec. 14 f.
75. Ibid., sec. 33.
76. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #327, adopted March 31, 1932, vol. III, p. 172.
77. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14.
78. Ibid.; La. A., 1921 E.S., #79, sec. 13 as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.
79. See essay on health officer, following.

Governmental Organization
and Records System

(First entry, p. 53.)

The division of finance services the other branches of the municipal government. Records of receipts and disbursements of all departments, including public utilities, are kept by this division.(80) The department of finance procures all supplies (81) and maintains accounts on all revenues including taxes, licenses, fines, and permits, as well as the income from the operation of the municipal light and water plant.(82)

The supervision and management of the municipally-owned public utilities is the principal responsibility of the department of public property.(83) This department also supervises the inspection, repair, and maintenance of other municipal property including the town hall, bridges, streets, sewers, and electric light poles.(84)

The preservation of municipal records is specifically provided for in the charter of 1918. Each trustee is directly responsible for the records of his office and is required, under penalty of a $100 fine, to transmit them to his successor within 5 days after such successor is inducted into office.(85) Municipal records are considered town property. When an employee terminates his service with the town, he is required to deliver all records kept by him to the trustee to whose department he was attached. Duplicate receipts for such records are issued, one of which is filed with the trustee of finance.(86)

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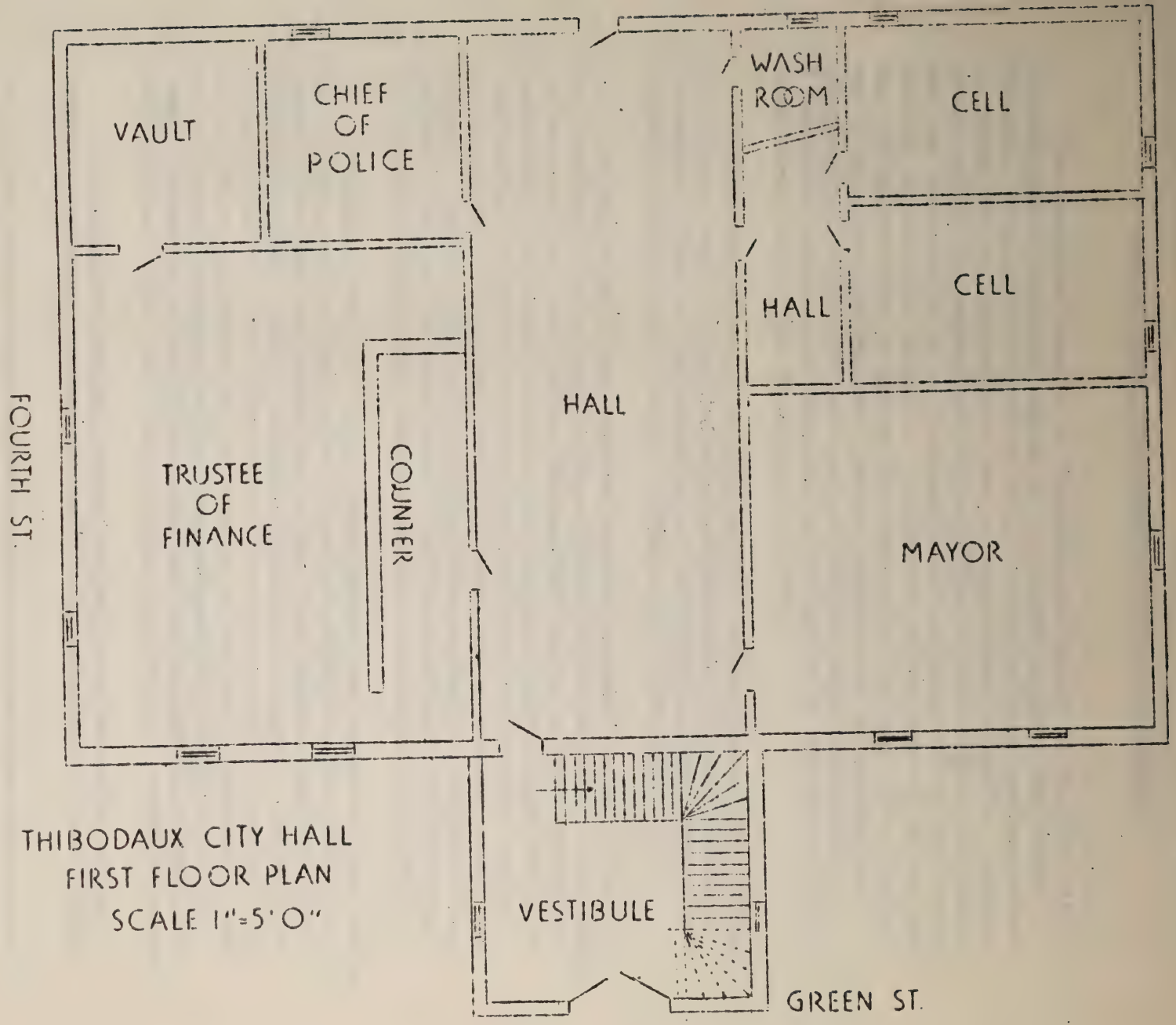
80. Minutes, February 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 312 et seq. See essays on trustee of finance as ex officio treasurer and tax collector, following. See also La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 27.
81. Ibid., sec. 15.
82. See footnote 80 above.
83. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 19.
84. Ibid., secs. 19 e, 19 f.
85. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 5, 6.
86. Ibid., sec. 24.

FLOOR PLAN OF CITY HALL

AND

HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY

OF THE RECORDS



THIBODAUX CITY HALL
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1"=5'0"

(First entry, p. 53.)

HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The municipal records of Thibodaux are housed in the City Hall, a 2-story wooden structure located at the corner of Green and Fourth Streets. Originally erected in 1886,(1) this building has been recently remodeled and repaired at a cost of approximately $2,575. Improvements include the enlargement of the office of the trustee of finance, and the installation of a fireproof vault adjoining his office for the housing of municipal archives. A storeroom in the rear of the building was transformed into an office for the chief of police. New flooring was laid in the main hallway; general repairs such as painting and plastering of walls were made; and all offices were refurnished. Fluorescent lighting was installed in the office of the trustee of finance where most of the bookkeeping is done.

The second floor of the City Hall is used exclusively for the public library, which is maintained and operated by the Women's Club of Thibodaux. Prior to the remodeling of the City Hall, the chamber of commerce, now inactive, had its office on the second floor.(2)

The majority of the municipal records are kept in the office of the trustee of finance and in the adjoining fireproof vault. The office is large and well ventilated. The current records of this department, comprising in the main the books used for the electric light and water department, are kept on steel shelves in the office when not in use on the counter. There are about 20 linear feet of shelving under the counter. Current bills and correspondence are kept in a steel filing cabinet. This office holds about 8% of the total municipal records. At the close of each day, the bound records are stored in the vault.

The vault, which is about 8 feet square, has concrete floor, walls, and ceiling, and is lined on two sides with steel shelves. The side opposite the door has wooden shelves and file drawers, and steel file drawers for small cards. Overhead lighting is adequate. The vault is fireproof and is closed with a steel door equipped with a secure lock. All of the early records of the various offices and a substantial part of the current documents of the finance department are filed in the vault. Space is not wholly adequate, and the records stored here, comprising about 70% of the total municipal archives, are somewhat crowded.

In the mayor's office, across the hall from the office of the trustee of finance, are housed about 5% of the records. Those relating

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1. Cornerstone of City Hall, Thibodaux, Louisiana; Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, March 20, 1886. See also historical sketch.
2. The above information was obtained from interviews with Charles Omer Naquin by Orahlee F. Conner, Marcelle F. Schertz, and Lucy L. Pellegrin. Copies of the recorded interviews are on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.

(First entry, p. 53.)

Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records

to violations of ordinances and persons wanted by the police are located in steel file drawers. The current docket book is kept in the drawer of the mayor's desk, and the other volumes are filed in the clerk's desk which is also in the mayor's office. Since the trustee of public property has no separate office, the current records relating to street improvement, sewers, and the maintenance of the electric light plant are located in a steel filing cabinet in the mayor's office.

The office of the chief of police, adjoining the vault, is a small room with a wooden floor and paneled and plaster walls. The drawers of a large desk located in this room are used to file the record of persons arrested and the transient register. About 2% of the records are housed here.

In a storage space located above the vault with an entrance from the chief of police's office are located the unused non-current cash records such as meter readings, cashier's receipts for payment of old electric light and water bills, records of tax collections, and treasurer's disbursements. This storage space is equal in length and width to the vault underneath it, but is only about 3 feet high. Its floor is the concrete ceiling of the vault; the walls and ceiling are unfinished. There is no lighting or ventilation, and it is by no means vermin proof. In bulk, about 10% of the records are stored here. However, these records are not used sufficiently to warrant their removal to the already crowded vault.

Because the fire companies operated for a long time on a purely voluntary basis, most of their records are scattered among the residences and business establishments of the officers of the several companies. The exact location of the records of each company is shown in the entries. The records of the fire board, kept by the secretary-treasurer, who is also superintendent of the electric light and waterworks plant, at present are located in his office in the power house. The fire records comprise about 5% of the total municipal archives.

No specific provision is made for the use of the municipal records by the public or for private research. However, such arrangements can be made informally with the officials concerned as the occasions arise.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

AND

THEIR RECORDS

(First entry, p. 53.)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The board of trustees dates from the original act of incorporation in 1830.(1) The first board was composed of five members, who were required to be freeholders residing within the limits of the town.(2) They were elected by "freeholders and inhabitants" of the municipality entitled to vote for members of the general assembly.(3) Upon assuming office each trustee was required to subscribe an oath before any justice of the peace within the parish for the faithful performance of duty.(4) The board served a 1-year term.(5)

From among their own number the trustees elected a president to act as presiding officer.(6) They likewise appointed "suitable persons" to act as clerk, treasurer, assessor, collector,(7) and constable of the town.(8) While their governmental functions appear to have been exclusively legislative, they were given rather broad powers to enact such by-laws as they might deem proper relative to the "good government" of the town.(9) These by-laws were, necessarily, required to be in conformity with the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana; and they were specifically directed toward regulation of public markets, streets, alleys and highways; the town watch, police, and patrol; and the suppression of nuisances in general.(10) While the trustees might impose fines not to exceed $50 for the breach of any ordinance, they were limited to actions before a justice of the peace, or any other court of competent jurisdiction, for the recovery of such fines.(11)

No specific executive powers were delegated to any individual members of the board. Such functions were exercised by means of committees appointed for special purposes. Among the more important were the committees on education, finance, improvements, and public property.(12)

Taxing powers of the trustees were limited to $500 a year "for the improvement and police" of the town.(13) Additional revenue could be raised only by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the municipality at a special election called for the purpose.(14) These taxing

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1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 2.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., sec. 5.
5. Ibid., sec. 2.
6. Ibid., sec. 3.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid., sec. 10.
9. Ibid., sec. 4.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ordinance Book, Digest of Ordinances, sec. 76, vol. II, p. 17. See also Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23 and October 21, 1865.
13. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 1.
14. Ibid.

(First entry, p. 53.) Board of Trustees

powers were enlarged, however, by an amendment to the charter passed in 1832.(15) At that time the trustees were given power to tax "taverns, mercantile houses, apothecary shops, shops for retailing spirituous liquors, billiard tables, etc."(16) Such taxes were limited to the amounts imposed by the State on similar establishments.(17) This act also endowed the trustees with power to establish a ferry crossing over Bayou Lafourche,(18) and to superintend the repairs required on the levee built to withstand encroachments of the bayou upon property situated within the boundaries of the town.(19)

Another salutary provision carried by this amendment was the method established for filling vacancies arising on the board of trustees. This was an omission clearly apparent in the original act. It was provided that the president of the board should call an election of the voters of the town in order to fill any vacancy arising among the trustees by reason of death, resignation, or removal from office.(20) Should the president resign or absent himself for more than a month, the remaining trustees were given the right to elect a successor.(21) At the same time, the municipal electorate was enlarged to include "every free male white citizen above the age of 21 years who shall have rented a tenement in said town for the last 6 months preceding the elections."(22) Such residents were likewise rendered eligible to hold any corporation office - a stipulation which directly affected the qualifications of the members of the board of trustees.(23) A final provision of the amendment required the board to sanction any withdrawals of money from the town treasury by the president.(24)

A new charter providing for a mayor-aldermen form of government was adopted in 1838.(25) Under this act control of the municipality was placed in the hands of a mayor and a board of four trustees.(26) The trustees no longer held the right to elect their presiding officer. This office was filled by the mayor, who was elected by the people and designated as such on their ballots at the time the trustees were elected.(27) The right of voting for the mayor and the trustees reverted to the same class of electors as contemplated by the original charter of 1830, viz:

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15. La. A., 1932, p. 162, sec. 4.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid. See also Thibodaux Sentinel, March 17, 1866; historical sketch, transportation.
19. La. A., 1832, p. 162, sec. 4.
20. Ibid., sec. 3.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid., sec. 2.
23. Ibid. Compare with first paragraph of this essay.
24. La. A., 1832, p. 162, sec. 7.
25. La. A., 1838, #67.
26. Ibid., sec. 3.
27. Ibid.

"the freeholders and inhabitants residing within the limits of said town, entitled to vote for members of the general assembly."(28) However, no change was made in the qualifications of the trustees or of the mayor.(29) In fact no further changes affecting the board of trustees were incorporated in the new charter except the rather minor prerogative of combining the offices of clerk and assessor in one person, should the mayor and board of trustees deem such consolidation advisable.(30)

A board of six trustees in addition to the mayor was authorized under the supplemental act of 1846.(31) The trustees were required to be residents of the town and to possess the qualifications necessary to become members of the house of representatives.(32) Their oaths of office could be taken before any justice of the peace of the parish or any "other officer duly qualified to administer oaths."(33) Their appointive and elective powers were somewhat enlarged at this time, since they were authorized to choose "by ballot and a majority of votes" a town clerk, treasurer, assessor, collector, wharfinger, and constable.(34) They were empowered to combine any of these offices into one person except those of treasurer and collector.(35) Penal limitation for violation of municipal ordinance was raised to $100 in amount and to 30 days in case of imprisonment.(36) A definite appropriation by the mayor and trustees was made necessary before any money could be withdrawn from the treasury.(37) Ordinances imposing taxes required a two-thirds vote of the board for passage.(38) Finally, the act of 1846 authorized elections to fill vacancies among the trustees only upon call of the mayor and the board.(39)

Except for a few isolated revisions, the powers of the board of trustees remained unchanged from 1846 until the turn of the present century. One innovation was introduced in 1861, when the trustees were first given the authority to select a mayor pro-tempore.(40) They were authorized to take this action during the temporary absence of the mayor extending less than 1 month, and it was required that such appointment be made from among their own members.(41)

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28. Ibid., sec. 2.
29. Ibid., sec. 3.
30. Ibid., sec. 5.
31. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 10 as reenacted by La. A., 1876, #38.
32. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 13.
33. Ibid., sec. 17.
34. Ibid., sec. 16.
35. Ibid; see Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23, 1865.
36. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 5.
37. Ibid., sec. 21.
38. Ibid., sec. 4.
39. Ibid.
40. La. A., 1861, #70.
41. Ibid., sec. 1.

(First entry, p. 53.) Board of Trustees

At the close of the War between the States, all vacant offices throughout the State were filled by the governor.(42) The post-war town council of Thibodaux, consisting of the required mayor and six trustees, was organized in this manner on September 19, 1865.(43) One further noteworthy revision made during the period in question occurred in 1876, when the term of the board of trustees was extended to 2 years.(44) Another significant act was passed by the legislature in 1896, when the trustees were authorized to float a bond issue of $25,000 for the double purpose of liquidating indebtedness due on the town waterworks and for erecting and equipping an electric light plant.(45)

When the citizens of Thibodaux chose to adopt the provisions of the general charter act of 1898,(46) the town council necessarily comprised the mayor and five aldermen.(47) They were elected for a term of 2 years (48) "by the people" (49) under provisions governing State and parish elections.(50) Aldermen were required to be qualified electors of the municipality having had 2 years residence in the parish.(51) The mayor and board of aldermen were specifically authorized to appoint a tax collector,(52) a clerk,(53) and a street commissioner,(54) and were generally authorized to provide for the appointment of such other municipal officers as were found necessary.(55) They were given the alternative of appointing a city attorney or of engaging legal counsel to represent the municipality as occasion should arise.(56) The board fixed the compensation of all officers and employees of the town.(57) Vacancies in the board of aldermen were filled by the governor for the unexpired term.(58) Aldermen could

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42. Thibodaux Sentinel, August 26, 1865.
43. Ibid., September 23, 1865.
44. La. A., 1876, #38, sec. 1.
45. La. A., 1896, #76.
46. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241,242.
47. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19 as amended by La. A., 1900, #97.
48. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38.
49. Ibid., sec. 19 as amended by La. A., 1900, #97.
50. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 39; Const., 1898, arts, 197-216.
51. La. A., 1898, #136, secs. 20, 21 as amended by La. A., 1906, #139 and La. A., 1910, #309.
52. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19 as amended by La. A., 1900, #97; Minutes, June 4, 1901, vol. V, p. 288.
53. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19 as amended by La. A., 1900, #97; Minutes, May 1, 1901, vol. V, p. 284.
54. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19 as amended by La. A., 1900, #97; Minutes, February 7, 1902, vol. V, p. 306.
55. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15. Section 15 of La. A., 1898, #136 was reenacted and supplemented in its entirety by La. A., 1912, #111 and La. A., 1916, #114.
56. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 23 as amended by La. A., 1900, #97; Minutes, June 4, 1901, vol. V, p. 288; Ordinance Book, Resolution approved May 1, 1917, vol. II, p. 315.
57. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15.
58. Ibid., sec. 38 as amended by La. A., 1904, #196.

be removed from office by the general power of recall covering all elected municipal officers throughout the State.(59)

The powers granted the mayor and aldermen under the provisions of the act of 1898 were both general(60) and specific in character.(61) The specific powers were numerous,(62) since the act was designed to cover varying conditions that might prevail in any municipality of the State coming under its provisions. Attention to detail was so pronounced that a provision directing the mayor and aldermen "to regulate and order the cleaning of chimneys" was included.(63)

Possibly the most important of these provisions dealt with the taxing powers of the municipality. The act provided for general,(64) special,(65) and privilege taxes;(66) and it gave the mayor and board of aldermen considerable latitude as to the method and extent of their imposition.(67) The general tax levy was fixed at a rate not to exceed 10 mills,(68) and a special tax not to exceed 5 mills additional was authorized for the purpose of paying bonded indebtedness.(69) Under this act of 1898 the right of granting public franchise was written for the first time into the organic law of the municipality, and the mayor and board of aldermen were given control of such privileges in all matters pertaining to public service.(70)

The board of aldermen passed out of existence when the present charter providing for a commission form of government was adopted by the electorate of Thibodaux in 1918.(71) The governmental functions of the board of aldermen were assumed by a board of three trustees; a trustee of public safety and ex officio mayor, a trustee of finance and ex officio treasurer and tax collector, and a trustee of public property.(72) These trustees are required to be residents of the town and to have the qualifications of electors therein.(73) They are

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59. La. A., 1912, #235.
60. La. A., 1898, #136, secs. 13, 15.
61. Ibid., secs. 15-17.
62. A total of 48 separate and distinct paragraphs was devoted to the duties and powers of the mayor and board of aldermen.
63. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 5.
64. Ibid., sec. 15, par. 1.
65. Ibid., pars. 1, 2.
66. Ibid., par. 24.
67. Ibid., pars. 1, 2, 24.
68. Ibid., par. 1.
69. Ibid., par. 2.
70. Ibid., pars. 7, 8; sec. 17, par. 3.
71. La. A., 1918, #266, Minutes, September 25, 1918, vol. VI, p. 294.
72. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 3.
73. Ibid., sec. 4.

elected to their respective offices by the legal voters residing within the corporate limits of the town.(74) Before entering upon their official duties the trustees must take the constitutional oath of office,(75) which is filed and recorded in the office of the clerk of court of the parish of Lafourche.(76) Each trustee is required to post bond, which, at the option of the board of trustees may be a personal bond or one executed by a solvent surety company, the premium being paid by the town.(77) All bonds must be approved and accepted by the district judge and the clerk of court of Lafourche Parish, and in the case of personal bonds a certificate of mortgage showing the encumbrances upon the property of principal and sureties must be submitted with the bond.(78) Bonds of the members of the board of trustees may be revoked by the district judge upon proof of misconduct or malfeasance or nonfeasance, and when bonds are so revoked, new bonds must be posted within 10 days or the office is declared ipso facto vacant.(79)

The first election of trustees under the commission plan of government took place on the first Monday in December 1918.(80) Subsequent elections, conducted under the general election laws of the State, are held every 4 years.(81) The salary of each member is fixed by the board of trustees but must not be less than $600 nor more than $1000 per annum, payable monthly.(82) No municipal officer is permitted to receive any money or benefit by reason of his dealings with the town except his lawful compensation or salary,(83) and no member of the board of trustees is eligible for city contracts until after the expiration of 1 year from the date he ceases to be such a member.(84)

Recall proceedings may be instituted against any member of the board of trustees by a petition signed by 25% of the voters in the last municipal election. The board of trustees must order an election to fill the vacancy in which the trustee under recall proceedings must be considered a candidate.

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74. Ibid., sec. 5.
75. Const., 1913, art. 161; Const., 1921, art. XIX, sec. 1.
76. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5. See I. P. A. La., #29, Lafourche Parish, (Thibodaux), entry 42, p. 56.
77. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 6.
78. Ibid.
79. Ibid.
80. Ibid., sec. 5; Minutes, December 4, 1918, vol. VI, p. 302.
81. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5. Elections were held December 5, 1922; December 7, 1926; December 2, 1930; December 4, 1934; and December 6, 1938. See Minutes, vol. VI, p. 521; vol. VII, pp. 77, 330; vol. VIII, pp. 139, 392.
82. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14 h, sec. 17, sec. 19 f. See Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 311; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 8, 1935, vol. III, p. 144.
83. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 23.
84. Ibid., sec. 8.

The candidate receiving the highest number of votes is declared elected.(85) No officer may be recalled within 6 months after he has qualified, and no officer who has been recalled is eligible for any position or office of the town within 1 year thereafter.(86)

A vacancy is declared to exist when an elected officer fails to qualify within 30 days after notice of his election is given, or when he dies, removes from the city, absents himself continuously therefrom for 2 months, is convicted of a felony, judicially declared a lunatic, or fails to furnish bond as required.(87) Vacancies in the board of trustees are filled by appointment of the mayor until a special election can be called.(88) This election must be held within 70 days after the vacancy occurs. In case of a vacancy in the office of mayor, the trustee of finance acts as mayor until an election can be held.(89) Dates of regular meetings are fixed by the board.(90) At present meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at the City Hall.(91)

In the board of trustees are vested the major governmental powers of the municipality. Executive and administrative powers are distributed among the three departments of public safety, finance, and public property.(92) Legislative powers are exercised by the body in the enactment of ordinances and resolutions.(93) As a whole the board has practically no judicial powers, these being delegated to the trustee of public safety in his capacity as mayor when presiding over the mayor's court.(94) However, the board of trustees sits as a judicial body in cases involving the dismissal of the town clerk or the chief of police on charges of incompetence, neglect of duty, or reasons judged sufficient by the board.(95)

The most important single function of the board of trustees is enacting the governing ordinances of the town. The legislative powers of the board are broad and general in their scope; the board may pass

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85. Ibid., sec. 29.
86. Ibid.
87. Ibid., sec. 9.
88. Ibid., sec. 5. See Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 12, 1930, vol. III, p. 84; Minutes, February 13, 1931, vol. VII, p. 342; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed April 17, 1931, vol. III, p. 88; Minutes, May 22, 1931, vol. VII, p. 355; ibid., June 19, 1931, p. 362.
89. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5.
90. Ibid., sec. 11. Minutes, January 10, 1919, vol. VI, p. 307; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 8, 1935, vol. III, p. 144.
91. Charles Omer Naquin, Notes on Interview with Charles Omer Naquin by Marcelle F. Schertz. (Copy on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.)
92. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 13.
93. Ibid., sec. 10.
94. Ibid., sec. 38.
95. Ibid., sec. 14 f.

any ordinances, resolutions, or regulations as may be necessary and proper." (96) All ordinances are acted upon by yea and nay votes and are recorded in the minutes of the meetings.(97) However, the trustees may of their own volition submit any proposed ordinance to a vote of the electorate at a regular municipal election, or at a special election called for the purpose.(98) Likewise, the board may be compelled to adopt an ordinance originating under petition of 15% of the voters and later carried by a majority vote of the electors at a general or special election.(99)

The entire fiscal system of the town is under the control and supervision of the board of trustees.(1) To this end, the board is required to pass "the annual appropriation ordinance" not later than December 31 of each year.(2) This ordinance appropriates such sums of money as the trustees may deem necessary for the expenses of the ensuing year and is based upon a budget which has been previously published for the information of the public.(3) Adjusted to the requirements of the current budget, the tax levy is assessed for each year, not to exceed 10 mills on the dollar of the taxable property lying within the town limits.(4) It is required that 3 mills of the property tax be appropriated and dedicated to the public schools. This portion of the property tax is paid over to the parish school board to be used by it in the maintenance of the public schools of the town.(5) The total tax levy is extended on the assessment rolls, and the board of trustees receives and acts upon applications for correction of the rolls from persons wishing to modify their assessment. (6) The trustees are authorized to provide by ordinance for unforeseen financial contingencies which arise and which may not be covered by the appropriation ordinance.(7) The board has the power to exercise specific control over the trustee of finance by prescribing the methods he shall use for the accounting and disbursement of funds.(8) All claims for money must be audited by the trustee in whose department they originate before

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96. Ibid., sec. 3.
97. Ibid., sec. 12.
98. Ibid., sec. 31.
99. Ibid., sec. 30.
1. Ibid., sec. 16.
2. Ibid., sec. 26 a. See Ordinance Book, vol. III, pp. 1, 10, 16, 19, 23, 47, et seq.
3. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26 a. See Ordinance Book, vol. III, pp. 9, 19, 43, 80, 95, 133, et seq. See also Minutes, June 20, 1919, vol. VI, p. 330; ibid., October 31, 1919, p. 348.
4. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26a.
5. Ibid., sec. 35. Ordinance Book, Annual Appropriation Ordinance #272, approved December 15, 1922, vol. III, p. 381.
6. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26 a.
7. La. A., 1902, #32, sec. 4; La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26 a; Minutes, April 4, 1919, vol. VI, p. 320; ibid., June 13, 1919, p. 330; ibid., October 3, 1919, p. 346, et seq.
8. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 15.

such demands are submitted to the treasurer for payment.(9) Requisitions for supplies amounting to more than $100 require the approval of the board.(10) The board is vested with the power to enforce and collect municipal taxes and licenses,(11) but all ordinances fixing licenses must specifically provide the date on or before which the license becomes payable.(12) No license may be greater than that imposed by the State on similar occupations or commercial pursuits. However, no limitation is fixed on the license tax to be imposed upon dealers in alcoholic beverages.(13)

The board may not contract any indebtedness without at the same time making provision for its payment. A proportion of the existing revenue may be earmarked for the payment; a new and special tax may be imposed for the purpose; or a bond issue may be provided for the discharge of the indebtedness.(14) However, the cost of erecting an electric light plant or waterworks system may be defrayed by pledging the anticipated revenues arising from the operation of such plants.(15) In connection with a municipal electric light and waterworks plant, the board is authorized to sell to consumers electrical appliances and plumbing supplies of all kinds.(16)

The board of trustees determines the nature and extent of all public improvements.(17) In contracting for public works and improvements where the amount involved exceeds $500, the board is required to receive competitive sealed bids and to award the contract to the lowest bidder who can furnish satisfactory security.(18) The board may, if it sees fit, reject any or all bids.(19)

Paving contracts calling for work involving more than one block must also be submitted to bids. In this instance, however, the town is authorized to reject all bids and perform the work itself if deemed advisable.(20) Abutting property owners are called upon to pay the entire costs of constructing sidewalks and two-thirds of the cost of constructing a sewerage system, or of paving streets.(21) Payment for such public improvements is provided by an assessment levied by ordinance or resolution, which assessment is recorded in the mortgage record of the parish

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9. Ibid., sec. 16.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid., sec. 26.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid., sec. 26 a.
14. Ibid., sec. 27.
15. Ibid., sec. 27 a.
16. Ibid. However, the town does not take advantage of this privilege.
17. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 27, 40-42.
18. Ibid., sec. 27 a.
19. Ibid.
20. Ibid., sec. 40.
21. Ibid., sec. 27 a.

(First entry, p. 53.)

and operates as a first lien upon the property concerned superior to all other claims except taxes.(22)

Permission to construct and operate public utilities in the streets and public grounds of the town, and any other lawful franchises, are granted by ordinance by the board of trustees for a period not to exceed 25 years.(23) Any grant or franchise may be protested, however, under a petition signed by one-fifth of the number and value of the property taxpayers. In the event of a protest, the question must be submitted to a vote of the entire electorate at an election held within 70 days from the presentation of the petition to the mayor. The trustees as a board canvass the returns of such elections and proclaim the results in public session on the third day following.(24) The trustees also canvass returns of elections held to fill vacancies in the board, and are required to make public proclamation of the results of such elections on the third day thereafter. (25) Appointments of salaried employees are made by ordinance passed by the board of trustees, and this body is authorized to determine the number of employees in any department of the town as well as to fix their compensation.(26) Employees specifically mentioned in the charter are the city attorney,(27) the chief of police, and the town clerk.(28) The board likewise holds the power of removal of such employees at will.(29)

The board of trustees may by ordinance enlarge or contract the boundaries of the town,(30) and it is also authorized to subdivide the town into drainage districts.(31) It is at the instance of the board, upon proper resolution, that proceedings may be initiated to reclassify the town as a city.(32) The board likewise inaugurates any changes in or amendments to the municipal charter.(33)

In his individual capacity each trustee is required to maintain an office at the City Hall and to give such time and attention to municipal

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22. Ibid., secs. 27 a, 40-42.
23. Ibid., sec. 26. See Ordinance Book, vol. III, pp. 10, 20, 72.
24. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26.
25. Ibid., sec. 5. See Ordinance Book, vol. III, pp. 84, 88.
26. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 25. However, the mayor can "employ all such persons as he may deem proper for the efficient and orderly administration of the affairs of the town, except as otherwise provided in the charter." (Ibid., sec. 14 f.) See Ordinance Book, vol. III, pp. 144, 294.
27. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 22.
28. Ibid., sec. 5.
29. Ibid., sec. 21.
30. Ibid., sec. 36; see Minutes, July 12, 1912, Ordinance #179, vol. VI, p. 3; Ordinance Book, Ordinance #295, vol. III, pp. 16, 21.
31. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 28.
32. Ibid., sec. 37. See also La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 8.
33. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 43. See also La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 43.

affairs as the duties of his office may demand.(34) As a department head he sends to the trustee of finance, usually on the first Monday in October of each year, an estimate of the amounts required for the business and proper conduct of his department anticipated for the ensuing fiscal year.(35) He is required to keep a record book in which all department affairs are recorded as soon as they are performed, and he must render a monthly report of all operations of his department to the board of trustees.(36) Annually, or more frequently if necessary, each trustee is required to prepare a synopsis of the operations of his department for publication. Such records are kept open for public inspection, including a complete inventory and permanent record of all the "personal" property of each department and the disposition made of it.(37) Within 5 days after his successor is inducted into office, each trustee must turn over to such successor all books, papers, and records pertaining to the office.(38) Records are located in the vault unless otherwise indicated in the entry.

Proceedings

1. MINUTES, TOWN OF THIBODAUX, May 7, 1838-Sept. 2, 1862; Sept. 19, 1865--. 9 vols. (vols. 1838-62, 1865-1931, no. 1-7; vols. 1865-1931 also dated). Title varies: Corporation Thibodaux.

Record of proceedings at regular and special meetings of the governing body of this municipality giving details of all matters taken under consideration and acted on by this body. Ordinances and resolutions include those appointing special committees to draft by-laws, to estimate the amount of property within the corporation limits, to fix salaries of officials and employees, and to check town finances; appointing constable, wharfinger, and inspectors for streets, levees, and bridges; adopting estimated budget of yearly receipts and expenditures; appropriations for general and special funds; floating bond issues for public improvements and letting of contracts for same; advertising for bids and granting of contracts; advertising and letting of franchise to operate a ferry service; adopting a standard table for fixing taxes on real and personal property; fixing the prices on bread during certain periods; furnishing lime to residences for sanitation purposes after floods; negotiating loans; issuing notices of special elections, appointing clerks and commissioners to serve at polls, designating polling places and promulgating the results of elections; commemorating deceased officials

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34. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 7.
35. Ibid., sec. 26 a. The date is subject to change by the board of trustees.
36. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 6. Minutes, March 7, 1919, vol. VI, pp. 315, 317. See also essays on individual trustees.
37. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 6.
38. Ibid., sec. 5.

and persons who were active in promoting civic improvement in the community; creating fire and plumbing boards and defining their powers and duties; defining the powers and duties of public officials; specifying the approximate location at which electric and gas meters should be installed on private premises and fixing penalties for tampering with same; opening and closing streets; issuing permits authorizing taxpayers to improve their property; accepting resignations of town officials; fixing the amount of license tax to be paid by operators of pool halls, places of entertainment, hotels, general merchandising establishments, and liquor shops; establishing traffic regulations and defining misdemeanor offenses; prohibiting electrical interference with radio receptions; authorizing the mayor to accept donations of land for public improvements, and to offer rewards for information or the apprehension of persons destroying public property; accepting assessment rolls as compiled by assessor; and approving payment of claims. Written into the minutes are opinions of attorney for the municipality, copies of oaths and bonds of town officials, bonds of contractors, acts of sale and donations to which the corporation was a party, copies of statements of treasurer on tax collections; and reports at given periods by the trustees of public property, public safety, and finance and those received from contractors relative to work completed on public property. The minutes of each meeting give date and place held, names of members present and absent, and in most instances signatures of mayor and clerk. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 1838-62, 1865-1910; typed 1911--. Aver. 512 pp. 15 x 9 x $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 18 x 12 x 3.

2. ORDINANCES (and Resolutions) TOWN OF THIBODAUX, July 16, 1847-Sept. 23, 1862; 1881--. 3 vols. Title varies: Minutes, Town of Thibodaux.

Record of resolutions and ordinances passed by the governing body of this municipality giving ordinance number, title, text, date adopted, and signatures of clerk and mayor; for types of ordinances and resolutions, see Minutes, Town of Thibodaux, entry 1. In 1881 a digest of ordinances, resolutions, constitutional provisions, legislative acts, etc., was made and officially adopted by the board of trustees. This digest was copied in the volume of ordinances beginning in 1881. In the first section of the first volume is a copy of the charter act of 1838 and the supplementary act of 1846. Arr. numer. by ordinance no. and chron. by date adopted. No index, July 16, 1847-Sept. 23, 1862, Sept. 2, 1881-Nov. 14, 1924; indexed in vol., Dec. 19, 1924--, alph. by first letter in title of ordinance or resolution, giving page no. of record. Hdw. 1847-62, 1881-1907; typed, 1908--. Aver. 366 pp. 16 x 10 x 2 to 18 x 12 x 6.

3. PRINTED MINUTES & ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THIBODAUX, 1858-60, Jan. 9, 1877 - Feb. 18, 1881. 1 vol, dated. For prior, subsequent, and duplicate records, see entries 1, 2.

Newspaper clippings of proceedings of the town council and ordinances enacted, 1877-81, for description, see entry 1. Included, 1858-60, is an account of notes and bills receivable giving number of note, name of drawer, in whose favor, on what account, year, and amount. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Printed. 35 pp. 7 x 9 x 1/2.

Audit

4. AUDITOR'S REPORT, 1910-13, 1919--. 5 folders and 17 vols., (dated).

Reports of auditors submitted to the mayor and trustee of finance upon completion of the examination of books and records of this municipality, embracing a detailed accounting of receipts and disbursements of all funds including those of municipally owned utilities. Reports give period covered by audit, tabulation showing source and amount of receipts, and purpose and amount of expenditures of each fund together with periodical bank and trial balances and other financial statements. Early audits cover more than one fiscal year. Each audit arr. by accounts. No index; attached listing of accounts in current vols. Typed. Aver. 40 pp. 14 x 9 x 3/4. Office of trustee of finance.

Improvements

Power House

5. TOWN OF THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA, PUBLICATIONS FOR POWER HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS IN THIBODAUX COMMERCIAL JOURNAL. Sept.- Nov. 1938. 15 pp. in 1 cardboard folder.

Newspaper clippings of publications pertaining to improvements made on the power plant operated by this incorporation including proceedings of the town council, resolutions and ordinances adopted at their meetings, and advertisements for bids. Included is a sheet listing types and cost of publications, giving name of newspaper publishing advertisements and total cost of all publications. Arr. chron. by date of publication. No index. Typed and printed. 15 x 9 x 1/4.

Streets

6. TOWN OF THIBODAUX, PUBLICATIONS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS IN THE THIBODAUX COMMERCIAL JOURNAL, 1939. Approx. 50 pp. in 1 cardboard folder.

Newspaper clippings of published proceedings of the council pertaining to the improvement of streets in the municipality of Thibodaux including notice of intentions to pave, text of proceedings authorizing paving, advertisements for bids, resolutions awarding contract and authorizing the borrowing of funds for project; acceptance of work; ordinances levying taxes against property to liquidate the indebtedness incurred by the municipality and to carry on this project; proceedings authorizing sale of paving certificates; and engineer's report on completion of work. Included is a sheet listing types and cost of publications, giving name of fund debited with costs of publication and name of newspaper publishing advertisement. Arr. by projects, chron. by date of publication. No index. Typed and printed. 15 x 9 x 1/4.

7. THIBODAUX PAVING. 1938-40; date of document Jan. 15, 1940. 1 vol. (discontinued, project completed.)

Certified copies of paving certificates issued; newspaper clippings of

the proceedings of the council in connection with the paving of streets in Thibodaux, including notice of intention, and resolutions and ordinances of this body; list of streets to be paved with names of property owners and frontage on street, price per foot, and total amount assessed; copy of listing of assessment as filed with parish recorder; and copy of contract between municipality and paving contractor. Arr. by topics. No index. Typed and printed. 245 pp. 11 x 9 x 1.

8. STREET IMPROVEMENT, 1938--. Approx. 1000 pp. in 1 steel file drawer.

Records pertaining to public improvement programs including street paving; construction and additions to water, sewerage, and power systems; and correspondence from various sources relating to these projects. Arr. by subject matter. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 12 x 26. Mayor's office.

Miscellaneous

9. SEWER (and Miscellaneous), 1938--. Approx. 500 pp. in 1 steel file drawer.

Miscellaneous records of this body including those pertaining to sidewalk projects and to operations of the Thibodaux fire department and gas system; general correspondence and copies of traffic ordinances adopted by the board of trustees. Arr. by subject matter. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 12 x 26. Mayor's office.

10. LOOSE LEAF BOOK (Scrap Book), Nov. 1928- Apr. 1938. 2 vols. (discontinued, was kept by Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce before that body became defunct.) Title varies: Scrap Book.

Newspaper clippings of important events in the municipality of Thibodaux and vicinity pertaining to civic improvements, fairs, crops, experiment bases to be located in vicinity of this incorporation, results of ball games, visits of influential people; advertisement of elections; bids on local construction projects; and results of voting on bond issues. Marginal notations give date and name of newspaper from which article was clipped. Arr. chron. by date of item. No index. Printed. Aver. 75 pp. 11 x 9 x 1.

Maps and Plans

11. (Map of Thibodaux) PUBLISHED BY SANBORN MAP COMPANY, NEW YORK, Jan. 1927. 1 vol.

Practical map of the incorporation of Thibodaux consisting of twelve sections showing streets, bridges, and water system; lot boundaries and numbers; and, in instances where a business establishment is situated, type of business. Also shows location of churches, schools, parish courthouse,

jail, and city hall. First map in volume is a composite of all sections and shows the town as a complete unit; also shows what buildings are fireproof and the water system of the town. Made and copyrighted by the Sanborn Map Company of New York. Arr. by sections starting at Bayou Lafourche. Indexed in vol. alph. by name of street, giving inclusive lot numbers and sheet number on which street appears. Process and shaded. 13 sections. 20 x 14 x 1/2.

12. SANFORD'S MAP OF THIBODAUX, L(ouisian)A., n.d. 1 map.
Map of the town of Thibodaux showing limits of incorporation; streets, bayou, and roads with name of each; lot boundaries with numbers; location of courthouse, waterworks, business sites, and residences of prominent citizens. Draftsman, John Ithiel Sanford, New Orleans, La. Black on white and shaded. Scale 1" = 160'. 30 x 20.

13. PLAT OF SURVEY (North Line of West 7th Street), Oct. 1, 1940. 1 map.
Plat of survey of the north line of West 7th Street, between St. Philip and Jackson Streets, in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Also shows block bounded by 6th, 7th, Jackson, and St. Philip Streets with former names of streets, sidewalk lines, and lot numbers and size. Draftsman, J.A. Lovell, Civil Engineer, Draftsman, Thibodaux, La. Blue-print. Scale 1" = 50'. 12 x 12.

14. PLANS FOR STREET PAVING AND STORM SEWERS FOR THE TOWN OF THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA, P(ublic) W(orks) A(dministration) PROJECT NO. La.-1182-F, 1938. 32 blueprints in 3 rolls and approx. 100 sheets of plotted cross sections in 1 bundle.
Plans for street paving and storm sewers for the town of Thibodaux, Louisiana showing the locations and profiles of proposed paving and storm sewers; and detailed plans for standard street paving, cross sections, street improvements, and storm sewer castings. J.B. McCrary, Co., Inc., Engineers, Atlanta, Ga. Blue-print. Scale varies. 24 x 30.

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The trustee of public safety is ex officio mayor (1) and president of the board of trustees.(2) As head of the department of public safety he has charge of the police, fire, street, and health departments.(3) He also exercises police authority over municipally owned public

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1. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 3, 14. See essay on mayor, following.
2. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14.
3. Ibid. See essays on chief of police, fire department, street commissioner, and board of health, following.

utilities(4) and controls the administration of the municipal jail.(5) With the exception of the clerk and the chief of police, he is authorized to employ all persons, including policemen,(6) necessary for the efficient and orderly administration of the affairs of the town,(7) and he determines their tenure and salaries.(8) Although the appointment and control of the clerk and the chief of police come under the jurisdiction of the board of trustees as a body, the trustee of public safety has the power to suspend either of these officers for cause. Final judgment in such cases, however, rests with the board of trustees.(9)

In his capacity as head of the department of public safety, this trustee is charged with the enforcement of regulations relative to the construction and maintenance of buildings within the town limits, and he issues building permits.(10) Since these permits are accompanied by a permit fee, they are turned over to the trustee of finance as ex officio treasurer. Records of building permits are listed under the latter office, see entry 43. The reports of the trustee of public safety are recorded in the minutes(11), see entry 1.

15. [COMMERCIAL BUILDING, MAIN AND ST. LOUIS STREETS, THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA], Dec. 15, 1936. 3 plans and 17 pages of specifications in 1 roll.

Plans and specifications for the Commercial Building constructed at Main and St. Louis Streets for Colonel C.A. Morvant. Norman V. Riviere, Architect-Engineer, Draftsman, King Hotel Bldg., Baton Rouge, La. Blue-print. Scale 1/16" = 1'. 4 x 4 x 30. Vault.

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
AS EX OFFICIO MAYOR

Although Thibodaux was chartered in 1830, the office of mayor as such was not officially created until 1838.(1) Prior to 1838 the board of trustees, the governing body of the town, was presided over by one of its members, selected by the board as president.(2) The qualifications of

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4. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14c.
5. Ibid., sec. 14e.
6. Minutes, January 10, 1919, Ordinance #246, vol. VI, p. 307; ibid., January 17, 1919, p. 309.
7. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14f.
8. Ibid. However, section 25 of the same act gives to the board of trustees the power to make the appointment of such salaried employees as may be necessary, to determine the number that shall be employed in any department, and to fix their compensation.
9. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14f.
10. Ibid., sec. 14d.
11. Minutes, March 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 315, et seq.
1. La. A., 1830, p. 134; La. A., 1838, #67.
2. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 3.

Trustee of Public Safety
As Ex Officio Mayor

(Next entry, p. 63.)

the president were the same as those of the other trustees,(3) and he had no ex officio duties or specifically delegated appointive powers.(4) However, all warrants drawn on the town treasury required the signature of the president.(5) Two years later (1832) the responsibility for withdrawing money from the treasury was assumed by the entire board.(6)

In 1838, when the mayor-aldermen form of government was adopted, provision was made for the popular election of a mayor,(7) who, like the members of the board, served a 1-year term.(8) Municipal elections were held in May.(9) Vacancies in the office of the mayor were filled by the trustees from among their own number.(10) At this time the mayor was given the additional powers of a justice of the peace,(11) but his jurisdiction was not confined specifically to the limits of the town until 1861.(12) In the event of the temporary absence of the mayor for less than a month, a mayor pro tempore was elected by the trustees from among their own members.(13)

At the close of the War for Southern Independence in 1865, a mayor, together with all other municipal and parish officials, was appointed by the governor of the State.(14) In 1876 the term of office for members of the board, mayor and aldermen, was extended to 2 years.(15) Municipal elections were held in November of alternate years.(16) When in 1900 the electorate of Thibodaux chose to adopt act 136 of 1898 as their charter, (17) the time of elections was changed to April.(18) The mayor was specifically required to be a qualified elector of the municipality and a resident of the parish for at least two years.(19) Removal of the mayor from office was provided for under the general powers of recall granted electors by the constitution of 1898 (20) and enforced by the legislature throughout the State.(21) Vacancies in the office of mayor

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3. Ibid., secs. 2, 5; see essay on board of trustees.
4. Ibid., sec. 3.
5. Ibid., sec. 8.
6. La. A., 1832, p. 162, sec. 7.
7. La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 3.
8. Ibid., sec. 2.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., sec. 6.
11. Ibid., sec. 3.
12. La. A., 1861, #70, sec. 2; see also La. A., 1865 E.S., #23, sec. 2.
13. La. A., 1865, E.S., #23, sec. 1.
14. Thibodaux Sentinel, August 26 and September 23, 1865.
15. La. A., 1876, #38, sec. 1.
16. Ibid.
17. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
18. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38.
19. Ibid., sec. 20.
20. Constitution 1898, Art. 222.
21. La., A., 1912, #235.

(Next entry, p. 63.)

were filled by gubernatorial appointment for the unexpired term.(22)

As presiding officer of the board of aldermen the mayor had no vote except in the case of a tie.(23) He held the power of veto, but a two-thirds majority of the board could override his disapproval.(24) All officers of the town came under his supervision, and the mayor could require any of them to exhibit his accounts and papers and to make a written report to the board.(25) As the chief executive authority of the municipality it was the mayor's duty to have any officer dealt with promptly for neglect of duty.(26) All commissions, appointments, and warrants required the signature of the mayor as well as the seal and attestation of the clerk.(27) The mayor made recommendations to the board on matters pertaining to the municipality, but it was his chief duty to enforce the ordinances and by-laws of the town.(28) This authority was exercised in his ex officio capacity as presiding officer of the mayor's court.(29)

From 1900 to the adoption of the present charter in 1918 (30) very little change was made in the duties of the mayor. In 1910, he was authorized to sign all warrants drawn on the treasury. These warrants were attested by the clerk, who was required to keep an accurate record of them in a "well bound" book.(31)

The ex officio responsibilities of the mayor were enlarged to considerable extent by municipal ordinance. In 1903, the position of superintendent of the waterworks and electric light plant being vacant, the mayor was given supervision over the operation of these utilities.(32) Several years later this function was formally incorporated into the ex officio duties of the mayor.(33) At the same time he was declared ex officio street commissioner(34) and was designated a member of the police board.(35) In 1907 he was authorized to act in the ex officio capacity of inspector of buildings.(36)

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22. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38; La. A., 1904, #196, sec. 1.
23. Ibid., sec. 20.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Ibid., see essay on mayor's court, following.
30. Minutes, September 25, 1918, vol. VI, p. 294.
31. La. A., 1910, #309.
32. Minutes, May 8, 1903, vol. V, p. 337.
33. Ibid., May 14, 1913, vol. VI, p. 36.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid., Ordinance #184, approved June 6, 1913, p. 42.
36. Ordinance Book, December 20, 1907, Ordinance #149, p. 207; see also Ordinances #222 and #265½ approved July 6, 1915, p. 370.

(Next entry, p. 63.)

Trustee of Public Safety
As Ex Officio Mayor

Thus, as the municipal activities of the town increased, the mayor became charged with duties extraneous to his functions as chief executive and presiding officer of the board of aldermen. This trend was so pronounced that when the present charter was adopted in 1918,(37) no provision was made for the election of a mayor as a separate and distinct electoral entity.(38) Instead, the title and duties incumbent upon the mayor were added in an ex officio capacity to those of the trustee of public safety, who was made chief executive of the town.(39)

As mayor the trustee of public safety is presiding officer of the board of trustees (40) and acts as the legal representative of the town. (41) In his executive capacity he signs all contracts, bonds, or other instruments requiring the official action of the town,(42) and he signs all proceedings such as by-laws, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions. (43) He issues notices of elections called to adopt any ordinance initiated by a petition of the electors,(44) and when an ordinance changing the boundaries of the town is adopted, it is the duty of the mayor to issue a proclamation declaring the ordinance to be effective.(45) As a member of the board of trustees, he exercises a vote on all matters coming before the board, but he has no veto power.(46) The trustee of finance acts in the absence of the mayor.(47)

The municipal ordinances and the city charter are not at all times in conformity in segregating the duties of the mayor from those of the trustee of public safety.(48) For this reason it is not always possible to draw a sharp line of demarcation between the functional duties of the trustee of public safety and his ex officio duties as mayor. Since the duties of the mayor are of an executive nature, there are no specific records for this office. For the judicial records of the mayor as magistrate over the mayor's court, see entries 16, 17.

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37. Minutes, September 25, 1918, vol. VI, p. 294.
38. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 3.
39. Ibid., secs. 3,4. See also essay on trustee of public safety, preceding.
40. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14.
41. Ibid., sec. 14a. Legal processes against the town are served upon the mayor, or in his absence, upon the acting mayor.
42. Ibid., sec. 14a.
43. Ibid., sec. 34.
44. Ibid., sec. 30.
45. Ibid., sec. 36.
46. Ibid., sec. 14b.
47. Ibid., sec. 5.
48. Minutes, February 6-13, 1920, vol. VI, pp. 361, 362; La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14.

(Next entry, p. 63.)

MAYOR AS MAGISTRATE OVER MAYOR'S COURT

The primary function of the mayor's court is the exercise of jurisdiction over all violations of municipal ordinances.(1) The mayor's court was first incorporated in the governmental structure of Thibodaux in 1900(2) when the town elected to organize under the provisions of the general charter act of 1898.(3) Prior to that time, the system of municipal ordinance enforcement had been subjected to various modifications. Under the first charter passed in 1830, the only penalty provided for the breach of any ordinance was the imposition of a fine not to exceed $50.(4) Such fines were recoverable before a justice of the peace or any court of competent jurisdiction.(5) The statute is silent as to the infliction of any term of imprisonment for such infractions.(6) Doubtless when the mayor was made ex officio justice of the peace in 1838, he exercised jurisdiction over breaches of municipal ordinances.(7) When the charter of 1846 was adopted, maximum penalties for violations of this nature were increased to $100 fines or imprisonment not to exceed 1 month.(8) However, this charter failed to vest the mayor with any express or exclusive jurisdiction over matters of this kind. Fines were recoverable "before any court of competent jurisdiction."(9) But in 1861 when the mayor was again designated justice of the peace, it was for the express "purpose of enforcing the ordinances and police regulations of the town," his jurisdiction being specifically confined to the corporate limits.(10)

The matter of municipal ordinance enforcement remained at this point until the adoption of the general charter act in 1900,(11) when the mayor's court was established.(12) At this time the mayor was given jurisdiction over the violation of all municipal ordinances and the authority to try all breaches and infractions thereof.(13) He could impose fines not to

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1. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 38.
2. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
3. La. A., 1898, #136, secs. 29, 30 as amended by La. A., 1904, #91 and La. A., 1910, #160.
4. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 4.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 3.
8. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 5.
9. Idem.
10. La. A., 1861, #70, sec. 2.
11. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
12. La. A., 1898, #136, secs. 29, 30 as amended by La. A., 1904, #91 and La. A., 1910, #160.
13. Idem.

exceed $100, or inflict imprisonment not to exceed 30 days; or else he could pass sentence to include both penalties.(14) Persons convicted in this court were liable to required labor upon the streets of the town.(15) The same penalty was applied to persons convicted by any other court in the parish of a crime committed within the city limits and sentenced to a term at hard labor.(16)

The mayor could hold court at his convenience, but he was required to keep a docket of all cases tried by him.(17)In his capacity as law enforcement officer the mayor's jurisdiction extended 5 miles beyond the city limits on matters pertaining to public health, quarantine, cemeteries, or the municipal waterworks.(18) He was authorized to call on any male inhabitant of the city over 18 and under 55 years of age to aid in law enforcement.(19) With the consent of the board of aldermen, he was given authority to remit fines and forfeitures, and to vacate or annul penalties.(20)

The mayor's court has been continued in Thibodaux under the present charter adopted in 1918.(21) However, when the town shall have been placed in the class of a city,(22) provision is made for the replacement of the mayor's court by that of a city judge.(23) Records are located in the mayor's office, with the exception of the record of fines imposed which is filed in the vault of the trustee of finance, see entry 44.

16. MAYOR'S DOCKET, TOWN OF THIBODAUX, June 2, 1913- June 14, 1922; Aug. 16, 1932--. 5 vols. (A-E). Subtitled by names of mayors. Title varies: Journal, Mayor's Docket.

Record of cases tried before this court for the violation of ordinances of this municipality, giving docket number of case, name of person charged, date offense was committed, charge, plea of defendant, verdict of the court, and disposition of case. Dispositions are as follows: fined, committed to jail for non-payment of fine, not guilty as charged, and released with warning. The names of arresting officers are noted, and signature of mayor as magistrate appears on record. Arr. numer. by docket no. No indez. Hdw. Aver. 171 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Mayor's office.

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14. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 31 and sec. 29 as amended by La. A., 1904, #91; La. A., 1910, #160; La. A., 1912, #111 and La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
15. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #193, July 8, 1913, vol. II, p. 249.
16. La. A., 1878, #38, sec. 1.
17. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 30.
18. Ibid., sec. 20.
19. Idem.
20. Idem.
21. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 38, 39.
22. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 8 as amended by La. A., 1902, #59.
23. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 38.

17. [RECORD OF VIOLATIONS OF CITY ORDINANCES], 1933-38. Approx. 700 cards in 1 steel file drawer. (discontinued)
Individual card record of persons charged with the violation of city ordinances giving name and address of offender, date of arrest, nature of charge, disposition of case, docket book letter, and case and page numbers of record; columns with printed headings for information on the physical description of person charged are not filled in. Arr. alph. by first letter in surname of offender. No index. Typed on printed forms. 12 x 12 x 26. Mayor's office.

TRUSTEE OF FINANCE

The trustee of finance is ex officio treasurer and tax collector.(1) As head of the department of finance he acts as the purchasing agent for all departments of the Thibodaux municipal government.(2) He executes the instructions of the board of trustees in securing supplies ordered by them, (3) and he likewise procures supplies for any trustee. Requisitions from trustees must be in writing stating the kind, quantity and quality of the materials desired, method of shipment, and estimated cost.(4) Requisitions exceeding $100 in amount must receive the approval of the board except in the event of an emergency. Even in an emergency should the estimated cost of the requisition exceed $200, the endorsement of one other trustee is required.(5) When requisitions are not marked "Urgent", the trustee of finance advertises for competitive proposals for supplies. Such advertisement may be by newspaper, by circular letter, or other means sent to several competitors.(6) A complete record of all requisitions, correspondence on the subject, and competitive bids received must be maintained in the office of the trustee of finance.(7) In his capacity as town procurement officer, the trustee of finance is usually instructed by the board of trustees to invite bids from local newspapers for public printing. (8) The trustee of finance also files duplicate receipts for records delivered to department heads by employees terminating their service with the city.(9) Property assessment rolls are kept open for inspection in the office of the trustee of finance.(10)

Since the expenses of the town are continuous, it sometimes happens that the municipal funds become depleted in the intervals between the

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1. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 3, 5; see essay on treasurer and tax collector, following.
2. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 15.
3. Ibid., sec. 16.
4. Idem.
5. Idem.
6. Idem.
7. Idem.
8. Minutes, January 10, 1919, vol. VI, p. 307, et seq.
9. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 24.
10. Ibid., sec. 26.

final dates set for payment of annual taxes. In this event, the trustee of finance is usually authorized by the board to negotiate a loan to cover the deficit, (11) pledging such security as may seem appropriate under the provisions of the charter.(12) As a final and general measure, the trustee of finance is required to perform any duties prescribed by the board of trustees not expressly enumerated in the charter.(13)

The trustee of finance is vice-president of the board of trustees and acting mayor during the absence or inability to act of the chief executive.(14) In the event of a vacancy in the office of mayor, the trustee of finance accedes to the duties of the office until an election can be held.(15)

18. MONTHLY REPORTS (Office of Trustee of Finance), 1935--. Approx. 75 reports in 1 wooden file drawer.
Monthly reports of the office of trustee of finance on all funds received and disbursed. Receipts are itemized by types and give source and amounts; disbursements are itemized by accounts giving name of account and amount of expenditure. Included is a consolidated record of receipts and expenditures prior to the current month. Arr. by date of report, by receipts and disbursement thereunder. No index. Typed on printed forms. 5 x 10 x 16. Vault.

19. [GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE], 1932--. Approx. 2000 items in 1 steel file drawer.
General correspondence to and from this office with business corporations and concerns. Arr. alph. by name of office or concern. No index. Hdw. and typed. 11 x 14 x 26. Office.

TRUSTEE OF FINANCE AS EX OFFICIO TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Under the present charter adopted in 1918, the trustee of finance is ex officio treasurer and tax collector, combining these two former offices into one department.(1) The books of the former treasurer were delivered to the newly elected trustee of finance on January 14, 1919, and those of the tax collector were likewise delivered on the same date. (2) The office has functioned in a dual capacity since that time. This is a radical departure from the well defined policy established in 1846

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11. Ibid.; Minutes, April 4, 1919, vol. VI, p. 320, et seq.
12. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 2.
13. Ibid., sec. 15.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid., sec. 5.
1. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 3, 15.
2. Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 310.

(Next entry, p. 67.)

under which the consolidation of the offices of treasurer and collector in one person was expressly prohibited.(3)

The board of trustees provides the method by which the accounting and disbursement of public funds are made.(4) Claims submitted to the treasurer for payment must be in writing, dated, and sufficiently itemized to identify the expenditure.(5) Each claim must be audited by the trustee at the head of the department in which it originates.(6) As treasurer and tax collector, the trustee of finance makes a monthly report to the board of the receipts and disbursements of his office.(7) At the first meeting of each month, when this report is usually submitted,(8) unpaid bills for the preceding month are presented for approval, and the board makes an appropriation covering the approved items.(9)

The operation of the public utilities is made the subject of a detailed annual report to the board of trustees. For this purpose the treasurer is required to keep the accounts pertaining to all public utilities separate from the general municipal accounts.(10) The treasurer submits also an annual estimated budget of all municipal expenses,(11) which is a consolidation of the anticipated requirements previously submitted to him by the various departments of the government. The budget must be completed before the third Monday in October of each year. However, this date may be changed by the board if they deem it advisable.(12)

Collections of water and light charges, licenses, fees, taxes, and all other municipal funds are made through the office of the trustee of finance in his capacity as collector.(13) To assist in this work, a deputy collector was employed shortly after the adoption of the charter in 1918,(14) and at the present time an assistant deputy collector is also employed.(15)

Records are located in vault unless otherwise indicated in the entry.

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3. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 16.
4. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 15.
5. Ibid., sec. 16.
6. Ibid.
7. Minutes, February 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 312; ibid., March 7, 1919, p. 315; ibid., April 4, 1919, p. 317, et seq.
8. Idem.
9. Idem.
10. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 27.
11. Minutes, October 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 347.
12. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26 a.
13. Ibid., sec. 15.
14. Minutes, Ordinance #246, approved January 17, 1919, vol. VI, p. 309.
15. Minutes, October 29, 1940, vol. IX, pp. 56, 57.

Trustee of Finance As Ex Officio Treasurer And Tax Collector - General Accounts (20-23)

General Accounts

20. CASH BOOK, TOWN OF THIBODAUX, June 1, 1938--. 5 vols. 1914- May 30, 1938 in Cash Book, Tax Collections, Town of Thibodaux, entry 46.

Daily record of cash receipts including electric and water services (regular consumers); electric and water services miscellaneous (occasional consumers); licenses, taxes, fines, and building permit fees; refunds on paving materials; and miscellaneous receipts-- with total for each account and monthly total giving date, from whom received, particulars, and ledger account number. Funds collected for licenses, fines, and building permits are credited to the general fund. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under printed headings. 250 pp. 16 x 12 x 2.

21. TREASURER'S DISBURSEMENTS, TOWN OF THIBODAUX, LA., 1924--. 4 vols. Title varies: Treasurer's Cash Journal, Town of Thibodaux.

Record of disbursements from all accounts including general, waterworks department, electric light department, and special funds; general fund lists accounts to which funds are allocated including those for streets and ditches, printing and stationery, police and criminal, board of health, fire department, clerk and attorneys, interest on bank loans, sundries, and trustees', deputies', and clerk's salaries; chemicals, repairs and maintenance, and supplies and sundries; electric light department accounts to which funds are allocated include plant employees, linesmen and helpers, fuel and freight, lubrication oil, plant repairs and maintenance, line repairs and maintenance, and supplies and incidentals; special fund accounts to which funds are allocated include waterworks bonds, meter deposits, and bank loans; each account gives date, warrant number, to whom paid, explanation of expenditure, and amount. Arr. chron. by date of entry. 16 x 12 x 2. 1924-35 in attic; 1936-- in vault.

22. GENERAL LEDGER (General and Special Funds) TOWN OF THIBODAUX, 1929--. 1 vol.

Ledger of general and special funds of the incorporation including municipal light and waterworks fund, special improvement tax fund, general fund, special $7\frac{1}{2}$ mill waterworks bond fund, 3 mill school tax fund, water improvement fund, and bond issue fund-- giving title of fund, balance on hand, receipts with dates, source, and disbursements with date, purpose, and amount. Arr. by fund. Indexed in vol. alph. by name of fund giving page no. of record. Hdw. 372 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

23. GENERAL FUND, ACCOUNTS PAID THIS YEAR, 1939--. Approx. 6000 items in 3 file drawers. Title varies: Electric and Water Accounts Paid This Year.

Original invoices for materials and services which have been paid and charged to the general fund and the electric and water accounts. Arr. by years, alph. thereunder by name of account. No index. Hdw. and typed; some printed forms used. 11 x 14 x 26.

24. GENERAL FUND, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, Sept. 1941--. Approx. 100 bills in 1 steel file drawer.
Original bills for supplies and services to be charged to the general fund, awaiting appropriation before payment. Arr. by creditor. No index. Hdw. and typed; some on printed forms. 11 x 12 x 26. Office.

Special Accounts

Bonds

25. BOND AND COUPON RECORD, TOWN OF THIBODAUX, LA., 1930--. 1 vol.
Record of bond issues of this municipality including those for water and filteration plant improvement, paving, and sewerage-- giving by whom issued, purpose, statute authorizing issue, date of election, number of votes for and against proposed project, amount voted, date validated, rate of interest, where payable, to whom bonds were sold, amount of bonds, and inclusive maturity dates. Included with each bond are the original redeemed coupons. Bond record gives denomination of bond, amount of each coupon, maturity date of bond, bond number, and purpose of issue; coupons give number, date redeemable and amount, name of corporation on which issued, and fiscal agent who will redeem coupons. Arr. numer. by bond no. No index. Hdw. on printed forms; coupons printed. Approx. 250 pp. 11 x 14 x 5.

Payroll

26. WEEKLY PAYROLL, 1935--. Approx. 325 rolls in 1 wooden file drawer.
Original and duplicate weekly payrolls for employees of the municipality including light and water plant employees and corporation laborers-- giving ending date of roll, names of employees, nature of work performed, number of days worked, rate per day, weekly salary, subtotals by departments, and grand total. Included is a breakdown of total showing what funds are to be debited and the amount. Roll bears signature of trustee of public property. Arr. chron. by payroll periods. No index. Typed on printed forms. 5 x 10 x 16.

Light, Power, And Water Accounts

27. POWER IMPROVEMENT, EXPENSES INCURRED, 1201-1-P-F, Aug. 1938-June 1940. Approx. 100 items in 1 folder.
Miscellaneous expense records pertaining to the Thibodaux power house plant improvement project including correspondence, bills, invoices, bank statements, and Public Works Administration forms on project funds and costs. Arr. chron. by date of item. No index. Hdw. and typed; some printed forms used. 15 x 9 x 1/4.

Trustee Of Finance As Ex Officio
Treasurer And Tax Collector -
Special Accounts

(28-33)

28. METER DEPOSITS, 1911--. Approx. 2400 cards in 2 steel file drawers. (A-L; M-Z).
Record of deposits made by consumers to guarantee costs of water, light and power used, giving kind of meter installed, meter number, name and address of consumer, date and amount of deposit, number of receipt issued, and signature of collector. Arr. alph. by first letter and grouping of second letter in surname of depositor. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 5 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 14.

29. [CONNECT ORDERS], 1938--. 22 vols.
Orders to connect light and water meters giving order number, date of order, name and address of consumer, amount of meter deposit, kind of service desired, date connected, kind of meter, number of meter, and reading at time of installation, by whom order was issued, and by whom order was filled. Arr. numer. by order no. and chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 50 pp. 5 x 6 x 1/2. Office.

30. [METER READINGS], 1939--. 13 bundles, 13 looseleaf binders, and 1 carton.
Record of water and electric meter readings for each consumer giving month, reading, meter number, account number, and name and address of consumer. Arr. by years, by routes thereunder. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. Approx. 110 pp. 5 x 10 x 1. Carton 1939 in attic, 13 bundles and 13 looseleaf binders 1940-- in vault.

31. [CASHIER'S TICKETS, LIGHT, POWER, AND WATER BILLS], 1938--. 33 looseleaf binders and 35 bundles.
Cashier's tickets acknowledging payments by consumers of indebtedness to this incorporation for light, power, and water services-- giving name of payee, month for which charges are due, present and previous meter readings, amount of each item consumed with cost, total of bill, and date paid. Arr. chron. by months. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 900 pp. 5 x 8 x 6. 1938-39 in attic; 1940-- in vault.

32. LEDGER (Day Book, Light and Water Receipts) Aug. 1934--. 19 vols. Title varies: Journal; and Cash Book.
Daily record of receipts for light and water services rendered consumers giving date of receipt, bill number, name of consumer, and amount collected. Also contains 1934-39 License Collections, entry 52. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. Aver. 474 pp. 11 x 7 x 1.

33. [CONSUMERS LEDGER, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND WATER], 1935--. 9 vols. Ledger of electric and water account, 1937--, of each customer giving name and address of consumer, meter readings for each month, units consumed, amount of bill, folio number in cash book to which posted, amount credited to account, and balance due in some instances. Volume 1939-40, has a section for dead accounts from 1935--. Arr. by years and by routes thereunder. No index. Hdw. under printed headings. Aver. 600 pp. 9 x 12 x 4.

(34-38) Trustee Of Finance As Ex Officio Treasurer And Tax Collector - Special Accounts

34. [DISCONNECTION ORDERS], 1938--. 19 vols.
Order to disconnect light and water meters giving order number, date of order, name and address of consumer, amount of deposit refunded, kind of service discontinued, date disconnected, kind of meter, number of meter and reading at time disconnected, by whom order was issued, and by whom order was filled. Arr. numer. by order no. and chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. Aver. 50 pp. 5 x 6 x 1/2. Office.

35. (Refunded Meter Deposits), 1933--. Approx. 500 cards in 1 steel file drawer. (A-L; M-Z).
Record of meter deposits refunded to consumers giving same information as Meter Deposits, entry 28, and additionally, date of refund, and signatures of consumer and of refunding clerk. Arr. alph. by first letter and grouping of second letter in surname of consumer. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 5 1/2 x 6 1/2 x 14.

36. ELECTRIC AND WATER ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, Sept. 1941--. Approx. 100 bills in 1 steel file drawer.
Original bills for supplies and services to be charged to the electric and water accounts, awaiting appropriation before payment. Arr. chron. by name of creditor. No index. Hdw. and typed; some on printed forms. 11 x 12 x 26. Office.

Paving Accounts

37. [LEDGER, PAVING ACCOUNTS], Apr.- Nov. 1938. 1 vol. (discontinued, project completed).
Ledger of accounts with various concerns for material and supplies to be used on paving project giving name of account, date material was received and invoice number; check number and date remitted; explanations which enumerate the various types of supplies received, including sand, gravel, cement, lumber, and incidentals; amount of sales tax to be added and total amount of invoice; deductions including credit memo or discount, amount deducted for freight paid; and net amount paid. Included is a listing of checks with dates and numbers under account headings giving amount and purpose of expenditure; and a recapitulation of receipts and expenditures for this project showing balance at specified dates. Arr. by accounts, chron. thereunder by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 76 pp. (50 used). 14 x 10 x 1/2.

38. ROLL BOOK, Jan. 23 - Mar. 18, 1939. 3 vols. (discontinued, project completed). Sub-titled: La Rose, Gheens, Brule Guillot.
Record of costs for transporting Work Projects Administration workers living in La Rose, Gheens, and Brule Guillot to and from sewerage project in Thibodaux giving names of driver and workers, number of days worked each month, total transportation cost per man, total for month, date driver was paid for services and in some instances acknowledgement of payment above his signature. Separate volume for each town, chron. thereunder by month. No index. Hdw. Aver. 50 pp. 9 x 7 x 1/2.

Trustee Of Finance As Ex Officio
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(39-44)

39. (Ledger) PAVING CERTIFICATE, 1930-36. 1 vol. (discontinued, all payments having been made).
Ledger of accounts for surfacing and graveling of streets within the limits of this municipality giving name of taxpayer whose property abuts street, amount of total assessment, date and amount of each payment. Arr. alph. by first letter in name of account. Indexed in vol. alph. by first letter in surname of taxpayer, giving page no. of record. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 6 x 1.

40. NOTICE OF PAVING INSTALLMENT, (Receipts), 1938--. 3 loose leaf binders and 1 bundle.
Cashier's tickets of notice of paving installments due by property owners; also used as a receipt to show that payments have been made,-- giving date of notice, name and address of taxpayer, ordinance number under which assessment was levied, rate of interest, inclusive dates for which interest is charged with amount, number and amount of installment, total due, and date paid. Vol. for 1938 also gives a description of property fronting street paved for which these assessments are levied. Arr. by years, chron. thereunder by date paid. No index. Typed on printed forms. Aver. 300 pp. 5 x 8 x 2.

41. JOURNAL PAVING, Dec. 21, 1938--. 1 vol.
Daily record of collections of paving installments from property owners giving date, assessment number, name of taxpayer, and amount collected. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 11 x 6 x 1.

42. [PAVING ACCOUNT LEDGER], 1938--. 1 vol.
Paving account of each property owner whose property abuts a street having been paved giving name of taxpayer, amount of each installment, total amount of assessment, description of property taxed, number of feet of paving and price per foot, and dates various installments were paid. Arr. by open and closed accounts, by location of property thereunder. Indexed in vol. alph. by surname of taxpayer, giving page no. of account. Typed. Approx. 600 pp. 9 x 12 x 3.

Permits

43. [APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING PERMITS], 1938--. 8 vols.
Duplicates of applications for building permits giving name of town, date, location where improvements are to be made, name of owner, specifications, name of contractor, amount paid for permit, and permit number. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. Aver. 50 pp. 5 x 6 x 1/2. Office.

Fines

44. [FINES], 1938--. Approx. 200 cards in 1 wooden box.
Card record of each case heard by the mayor's court in which a fine was imposed for the violation of a municipal ordinance giving case number, date, name of person fined, amount of fine, amount of court cost, date paid, and signature of receiving clerk. Arr. by years. No index. Hdw. 3 x 4 x 10.

(45-48)

Trustee Of Finance As Ex Officio Treasurer And Tax Collector - Taxes

Taxes

Real and Personal

45. [ASSESSMENT ROLL], 1888, 1901-02, 1910-17, 1921--. 4 vols.
Listing of assessments levied against owners of real and personal property situated within the corporate limits of Thibodaux giving assessment number of parish roll; name of taxpayer; description of property taxed; value of lots and improvements; amount of personal property taxed; amount of ad valorem stock tax; total value of property; enumeration of taxes which include sewerage district #1 tax, special improvement tax, water bond tax, corporation tax, and total; and date paid in most instances. Recapitulation on last pages of volume gives sub-total by pages, totals of each tax, and grand total of all taxes. Certification over signature of assessor states that foregoing tabulation is true and correct and gives date original roll was filed with parish recorder. Arr. by years, by blocks thereunder. No index. Hdw. 1888, 1901-02, 1910-13; typed 1914-17, 1921--, printed headings used throughout. Aver. 250 pp. 17 x 22 x 2.

46. CASH BOOK, TAX COLLECTIONS, TOWN OF THIBODAUX, 1914--. 19 vols.
Title varies: Cash Receipts, Town of Thibodaux.
Daily record of tax collections of this municipality giving date received; name of taxpayer; assessment number; and the various taxes with amounts levied for each including corporation tax, special improvement tax, and waterworks tax; amount due on current year, if any; charge for notices; amount of interest; total amount paid by property owner; and monthly totals on all collections. Also contains 1914- May 1938, Cash Book, Town of Thibodaux, entry 20. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under printed headings. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 3. 18 vols. 1914-38 in attic; 1 vol. 1938-- in vault.

47. [RECEIPTS FOR TAX PAYMENTS], 1930-32, 1936--. 3 bundles and 8 loose leaf binders.
Cashier's tickets of tax notices issued to owners of real and personal property in this municipality giving assessment number, name and address of taxpayer, year for which taxes are due, amount of taxes, assessed value of property, name of ex officio tax collector, itemization of the various taxes with interest and costs added, total amount of tax, and date paid. Receipts for the years 1930-32, are for personal property tax only, while other receipts are for both personal and real property taxes. These are duplicates of the original tax notices and are used as a receipt to show that payment has been made. Arr. chron. by date paid. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 500 pp. 5 x 8 x 5.

48. TAX SALES RECORD BOOK, Jan. 13, 1934--. 1 vol.
Copies of sales and adjudications of property for non-payment of municipal taxes, by the ex officio tax collector of this municipality, giving name of city, state and parish, name of ex officio tax collector, number of act authorizing sale, notations as to delinquent notices delivered and published, name of newspaper in which publications appeared, when and where

sale was held, copy of tax notices; if a substantial bid was not received, property was adjudicated to the municipality; clauses of redemption, date of act, and signatures of ex officio tax collector and witnesses. In some instances notations appear showing that delinquent taxpayers have redeemed the property. Such notations give date of redemption and page number in volume where copy of redemption certificate appears. Also contains Tax Redemption Certificates, entry 49. Arr. by sales and redemptions, chron. therounder by date of entry. No index. Typed and pasted on pages of vol. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2.

49. [TAX REDEMPTION CERTIFICATES], Jan. 31, 1935--. In Tax Sales Record Book, entry 48.
Duplicate copies of tax redemption certificates issued to persons whose property was adjudicated to this incorporation for non-payment of municipal taxes giving venue, date, redemption certificate number, to whom property was adjudicated, name of delinquent taxpayer, description of property involved, itemization of past due taxes and costs, amount paid, date of act of sale or adjudication, signatures of ex officio tax collector and witnesses and their acknowledgement. Marginal notations appear beside each certificate giving date of adjudication, instrument number, and page number in this volume of copy of sale, and in some instances date certificate was recorded in parish conveyance record with volume, page, and entry numbers of parish record.

Licenses

50. LICENSE RECORD, 1929--. 1 vol. and 2 steel file drawers.
Record of occupations and businesses paying a license tax giving name of establishment, ~~home~~ address, year for which taxed, license number, type of license, and amount paid. Included in volume, 1934-38, is a compilation of taxes collected for given periods. One file drawer contains record of businesses now operating while the other is of establishments no longer in existence. File drawers are arr. alph. by first letter in name of establishment or owner. No index. Vol. hdw; cards typed on printed forms. Vol. 152 pp. 14 x 7 x 1; file drawers aver. 200 cards. 4 x 6 x 12.

51. [LICENSE STUBS], 1937--. 7 vols.
Stubs of business and occupational licenses issued to individuals and firms operating in the city of Thibodaux giving license number, fee charged, name of state and city, name of establishment or owner, address of business, type of license, year for which issued, and date paid. Arr. chron. by date paid. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. Aver. 250 stubs, 5 x 4 x 2. 2 vols. 1937-38 in attic; 5 vols. 1938-- in vault.

52. JOURNAL (License Collections), Jan. 4, 1940--. 1 vol. 1934-39 in Ledger; Day Book, Light and Water Receipts, entry 32.
Daily record of revenue received by the municipality of Thibodaux through the issuance of occupational and business licenses giving date, name of establishment, fee charged, and total of each day's collection. Arr.

chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 152 pp. 11 x 7 x 1.

53. [MISCELLANEOUS], 1931--. Approx. 3600 items in 3 cartons, 15 bundles, and 12 wooden file drawers. Sub-titled by type of items in containers.

Miscellaneous records of this municipality including insurance policies, gas contracts, paving certificates, contracts for the sale of bond issues, surety bonds, cancelled improvement bonds and coupons; invoices, receipts, paid notes, check stubs, petty cash vouchers; bank books and statements; returned tax notices, post office receipts, monthly reports and tally sheets. Arr. by types in most instances. No index. Hdw. and typed; some on printed forms. Cartons, 14 x 14 x 16; bundles, 9 x 5 x 8; file drawers, 5 x 10 x 16. Cartons in attic; bundles and file drawers in vault.

TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

As his title indicates, the trustee of public property has charge of all property belonging to the town, including the town hall, markets, bridges, streets, alleys, ditches, sewers, and electric light poles.(1) In connection with bridges, streets, and alleys, he bears joint responsibility with the trustee of public safety, who is ex officio head of the street department.(2) The trustee of public property is required to make diligent inspection of the physical condition of municipally owned property and to anticipate repairs with a view toward maintaining the highest efficiency and most presentable appearance.(3) To this end he is authorized by the board to employ such personnel as may be necessary.(4) Reports of the condition of public property are made to the board at regular intervals.(5)

The principal responsibility of the trustee of public property is the supervision and management of the several departments of the municipal water and electric light plant.(6) By authority given him by the board of trustees the trustee engages employees necessary for the successful

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1. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 19e, 19f.
2. Ibid., sec. 14.
3. Ibid., sec. 19d. Since the nature and extent of public improvements are determined by the board of trustees, records pertaining to streets, power house improvements, paving, etc. are listed under that office; see entries 5-8.
4. Minutes, January 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 305; ibid., January 10, 1919, vol. VI, p. 307.
5. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 6; Minutes, January 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 305; ibid., February 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 313; ibid., March 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 317; ibid., April 4, 1919, vol. VI, p. 319, et seq.
6. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 19.

operation of the plant,(7) and he establishes rules for their conduct.(8) He executes the instructions of the board in making extensions of light or power wires and of water mains,(9) but he possesses sole authority to grant permission to private persons to tap and connect with water mains and light or power lines already in operation.(10) Water and light meters are read monthly, and the readings are turned over to the department of finance.(11) Periodic reports of the condition of the public utilities are made to the board of trustees.(12)

Most of the records of the trustee of public property are either recorded in the minutes of the board of trustees, see entry 1, or filed with the trustee of finance, see entries 5-8, 26, 30. Records covered by the following entries are located in the vault unless otherwise indicated in the entry.

Public Utilities

Power Plant

54. POWER PLANT FOR L(ouisian)A., Docket 1201 F.R., 1938--. Approx. 500 pp. in 1 steel drawer.
Records of the municipal power plant including estimates on operating expenses, requisitions for supplies, list cost of materials needed, insurance certificates, correspondence, and a list of licensed contractors in the state. Arr. by subject matter. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 12 x 26. Mayor's office.

55. THIBODAUX MUNICIPAL POWER PLANT, n.d. 1 item.
Plan of the municipal power plant at Thibodaux, Louisiana, showing location of walls, air compressor, switch board, pump pits, workshop, oil room, dressing room, telephone booth, and engines-- giving trade name of engines, and distance from various points in feet and inches. Blue-print, draftsman not given. Scale 1/8" = 1'. 12 x 16.

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7. Minutes, January 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 305; ibid., January 10, 1919, Ordinance #246, vol. VI, p. 307. Salaries of these employees are fixed by the board. (Minutes, January 10, 1919, Resolution, vol. VI, p. 307). The weekly payroll for employees of the light and waterworks plant and corporation laborers is filed with the trustee of finance, since he keeps the rolls as a receipt; see entry 26.
8. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 19.
9. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 27, 19a.
10. Ibid., sec. 27.
11. Ibid., sec. 19c. See entry 30.
12. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 6; Minutes, January 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 305; ibid., February 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 313; ibid., March 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 317; April 4, 1919, vol. VI, p. 319, et seq.

56. MAP OF THIBODAUX, Dec. 9, 1926. 1 map.
Map of Thibodaux showing primary distribution system of the municipal power plant. Highline and transformers are indicated by heavy white lines and white triangles respectively; also shows streets with names, alleys, and Bayou Lafourche. Blue-print. Scale 1" = 200'. 42 x 42.

Waterworks System

57. THIBODAUX LOUISIANA U(nited S(tates of) A(merica). (Water Works System), n.d. 1 item.
Plan of the Thibodaux waterworks extensions showing existing and proposed water mains, fire hydrants, and gate valves. Also shows streets, alleys, depot and railway line, park, and Bayou Lafourche. E.P. Joseph, Mechanical Engineer, Draftsman, Glenmora, La. Blue-print. Scale 1" = 200'. 30 x 42.

58. THIBODAUX QUADRANGLE, n.d. 1 item.
Map of Lafourche Parish and sections of neighboring parishes showing town of Thibodaux; bayous, rivers, and highways; large plantations; township and range lines and numbers; and drainage, indicated by shading. Board of State Engineers, Draftsman. Printed and shaded. Scale 1" = 1 1/2 miles. 60 x 30.

59. [SURVEY OF TWO TRACTS OF LAND LOCATED IN ST. JAMES PARISH], Aug. 31, 1939. 1 item.
Survey of two tracts of land situated in St. James Parish. Tract "A" is southeastern portion of township 135, range 16 E, and contains 1183.72 acres; tract "B" is composed of sections 23, 24, 25, and 26, township 13 S, range 16 E, and contains 662.80 acres. H.E. Landry, Civil Engineer and Surveyor, Draftsman, New Orleans, La. Blue-print. Scale 1" = 10 chains. 24 x 30.

60. PLANS OF PROPOSED RAW WATER LINE FROM THIBODAUX, L(ouisian)A TO MISSISSIPPI RIVER, Jan. 5, 1940. 4 pages.
Plans of the proposed raw water line from Thibodaux, Louisiana, to the Mississippi River showing existing and proposed lines with elevations and blow off tees; plans and details of Weir and Discharge chamber for raw water supply line; and canal crossings and pile bents. J.B. McCrary Co., Inc., Engineers, Draftsman, Atlanta, Ga. Blue-print. Scale varies. 24 x 36.

CLERK

When the town of Thibodaux was organized in 1830, the office of clerk was provided for in the original charter.(1) The clerk was to be appointed by the board of trustees within 5 days after their election,(2) and was to subscribe to an oath of office before any justice of the peace.(3)

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1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 3.
2. Idem.
3. Ibid., sec. 5.

Clerk

(Next entry, p. 82)

No bond was required. The term of office of the clerk was fixed at 1 year; specific compensation was not mentioned in the act. Vacancies in the office were to be filled by the board of trustees.(4)

The duties of the clerk consisted exclusively in recording all proceedings and by-laws enacted by the trustees, and in causing their promulgation by posting certified copies in different parts of the town.(5)

In 1846 in addition to recording the minutes of the board, the clerk was required to keep a separate record of the by-laws, ordinances, and resolutions.(6) He countersigned the minutes of the proceedings,(7) and signed in conjunction with the mayor all warrants upon the treasury. He kept a record of such warrants also.(8)

The general charter act of 1898 provided that the clerk should be elected by the board of aldermen at the first regular meeting after each municipal election.(9) His term was fixed at 2 years.(10) The conditions of his bond (11) and the matter of his compensation (12) were made subject to municipal ordinance. Vacancies were to be filled by the board, (13) which was empowered to remove the clerk for misconduct or neglect of duty.(14)

The principal duty of the clerk was that of preserving a record of the proceedings of the board of aldermen, together with all orders, ordinances and judgments, which were to be kept in a book alphabetically indexed.(15) In addition to the minute book, he was to maintain a municipal docket in which should be entered each claim against the municipality and each subject matter to be acted on by the board. Dockets for each meeting were required to be prepared in advance. A record of all

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4. Ibid., sec. 3.
5. Ibid., sec. 9.
6. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 22. See Ordinance Book, entry 2.
7. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 22.
8. Ibid., sec. 21. See also Thibodaux Sentinel, November 11, 1865, Ordinance #3.
9. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 23, as amended by La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 2. See Also Minutes, May 1, 1901, vol. V, p. 284; ibid., May 1, 1903, p. 334; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240.
10. Idem.
11. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15; ibid., sec. 23, as amended by La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 2.
12. Ibid.; see also Minutes May 7, 1902, vol. V, p. 310; ibid., May 14, 1913, vol. VI, p. 36; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 1, 1917, vol. II, p. 315.
13. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38; La. A., 1904, #196, sec. 1.
14. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 16; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
15. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 24.

(Next entry, p. 82) Clerk

deeds to individuals and the list of lands sold to the municipality by the tax collector was to be kept by the clerk in a book labeled "Tax Record." Pertinent details relating to the description of the land, former owner, date of sale, amount involved and subsequent redemption proceedings, if any, were to be entered in this book.(16) The clerk was custodian of the municipal seal,(17) and was required to attest to all commissions, appointments, and warrants signed by the mayor, to affix the seal of the municipality to these documents and to keep a record of them.(18)

It was possible to combine a number of functions and ex officio duties in the person of the clerk. He was specifically designated as auditor,(19) and he could be tax collector or assessor if the mayor and aldermen should so elect.(20) He also could be an alderman.(21) As auditor the clerk was required to keep the accounts of each municipal fund and of each officer. Payments to the treasury had to be audited by the clerk before being deposited with the treasurer. The books of the auditor were open to inspection by the taxpayers during business hours.(22) In general, the clerk was required to keep all records pertaining to the business of the municipality.(23)

Under the present charter the clerk is elected by the board of trustees on the Tuesday following the induction of the board into office, or within 10 days thereafter.(24) His term of office and compensation is fixed by the board,(25) which holds the power of removal at will.(26) The trustee of public safety may suspend the clerk for incompetency, neglect of duty, or any just and reasonable cause, but final determination of such suspension rests with the board.(27) The clerk is required to record the proceedings, by-laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, etc. of the town, and to cause them to be promulgated after obtaining the signature of the mayor.(28) He is authorized to certify to the correctness of

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16. Idem.
17. Ibid., sec. 24.
18. Ibid., sec. 20; La. A., 1910, #309.
19. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 37.
20. Ibid., sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1. See Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240 wherein the clerk is designated ex officio assessor. See essay on clerk as ex officio assessor, following.
21. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
22. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 37.
23. Ibid., sec. 24.
24. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5; Minutes, January 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 305 et seq.
25. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5. See also Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 311; ibid., December 5, 1919, p. 354; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 8, 1935, vol. III, p. 144; ibid., January 31, 1939, p. 294.
26. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5.
27. Ibid., sec. 14f.
28. Ibid., sec. 34.

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copies of, or extracts from, the municipal minutes.(29) Records of minutes and ordinances are listed under the board of trustees, see entries 1-3. Audits are made by specially employed private auditors,(30) see entry 4. The record of tax sales referred to in this essay is now kept by the tax collector, see entry 48.

CLERK AS EX OFFICIO ASSESSOR.

The clerk was specifically designated ex officio assessor in 1894.(1) He had been authorized to act in this capacity by the charter act of 1838.(2) The general charter act of 1898 reiterated the provisions of the earlier charter in the matter of the consolidation of the offices of clerk and assessor,(3) and outlined his duties should he act in this additional capacity.(4) As assessor, the clerk was responsible for the preparation of the municipal property assessment roll. For this purpose he was authorized to copy from the parish assessment rolls such portions as affected property embraced by the corporate limits.(5) The duties of the clerk as ex officio assessor have not been changed by the present charter.(6) Since the assessment roll is turned over to the tax collector, the entry for this record is listed under the trustee of finance as ex officio treasurer and tax collector, see entry 45.

CHIEF OF POLICE

The board of trustees was authorized to appoint a constable under the act which first incorporated the town in 1830.(1) The charter was silent as to his qualifications, term of office, method of filling vacancies, etc., but it may be assumed that these matters were likewise controlled by the board.(2) The constable was granted the same fees as allowed to constables throughout the state.(3) He was required to attend meetings of the board of trustees, and to execute writs, warrants, and orders issued by the president of the board.(4) In addition he was

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29. Ibid.
30. Minutes, August 17, 1917, vol. VI, p. 262; ibid., January 17, 1919, p. 309; ibid., December 9, 1921, p. 454; ibid., June 9, 1922, p. 485.
1. Minutes, November 28, 1894, vol. V, p. 31. See essay on assessor, following.
2. La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 5.
3. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
4. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 35.
5. Ibid.
6. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26a. See essay on assessor, following.
1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 10.
2. Idem.
3. Idem.
4. Idem.

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Chief Of Police

to perform such other acts as the trustees might impose.(5)

The charter act of 1846 set the term of office of the constable at 1 year.(6) He was required to take the oath of office and to post a bond with such security as the mayor and trustees might ordain.(7) Vacancies in the office were filled in the same manner as the original appointments had been made.(8) In addition to executing papers issued by the mayor, the constable also served the court of any other justice of the peace within the limits of the town.(9) The duties of the constable were set forth in detail under an ordinance passed upon the reorganization of the municipal government at the close of the War between the States.(10) By the ordinance his salary was fixed at $100 per year payable quarterly.(11)

When the town came under the general charter act of 1898, the constable was superseded by a marshal, popularly elected from the municipality at large at the election held for mayor and aldermen.(12) However, the marshal was ex officio constable.(13) He served a term of 2 years.(14) The form and amount of his bond were prescribed by the mayor and board of aldermen,(15) but his removal from office was subject to the general law regulating the recall of all municipal officers.(16) Vacancies in the office were filled by the governor for the unexpired term.(17)

The marshal was also the chief of police,(18) and he could be tax collector or assessor if the mayor and board of aldermen so decided.(19) By the terms of the act of 1898 the marshal might also be the street commissioner,(20) but this provision was omitted from the amendatory act of 1900.(21) The duties of the marshal were determined almost exclusively by ordinance at the instance of the mayor and board of aldermen.(22)

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5. Idem.
6. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 16.
7. Idem.
8. Idem.
9. Idem.
10. Thibodaux Sentinel, March 10, 1866, Ordinance #8.
11. Idem.
12. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19.
13. Ibid., sec. 25.
14. Ibid., sec. 38.
15. Ibid., sec. 15, par. 15; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
16. La. A., 1912, #235; La. A., 1914, #307.
17. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38; La. A., 1904, #196.
18. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 25.
19. Ibid., sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
20. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19.
21. La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
22. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 25.

Chief Of Police (Next entry, p. 82.)

However, it was mandatory that he attend the mayor's court,(23) and, in connection with his duties as a police officer, he was required to aid in the arrest and apprehension of any person violating the regulations of the state board of health.(24)

By an ordinance passed in 1913 a police board was created which assumed jurisdiction over the activities of the marshal.(25) The board was composed of the mayor, the mayor pro tempore, and an alderman who was to be selected every 2 years.(26) In addition to the marshal, the police force was to comprise as many policemen as the police board might select, subject to the approval of the board of aldermen.(27) This provision was later amended in order to place the selection and compensation of policemen in the hands of the board of aldermen.(28)

Upon the adoption of the present charter, the principal police officer was designated as the chief of police.(29) The term marshal is no longer in use.(30) At this time the police board was supplanted by the trustee of public safety as ex officio head of the police department.(31) The power to employ additional policemen to assist the chief of police from time to time is now vested in the trustee of public safety.(32)

The chief of police is elected by a majority vote of the board of trustees(33) at a meeting held on the Tuesday following the qualification and induction of the board into office or within 10 days thereafter.(34) His term of office is fixed by the board, which has the power of removal.(35) The chief of police is subject to suspension by the trustee of public safety for any just and reasonable cause, but the right of final disposition in such cases rests with the board of trustees.(36) The trustees likewise fix the salary of the chief of police.(37)

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23. Ibid., sec. 30.
24. La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 3; La. A., 1902, #150.
25. Minutes, June 6, 1913, Ordinance #184, vol. VI, p. 42.
26. Idem.
27. Idem.
28. Ibid., p. 46.
29. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5; Minutes, January 10, 1919, vol. VI, p. 307.
30. Ibid.
31. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14.
32. Minutes, January 10, 1919, Ordinance #246, vol. VI, p. 307, et seq.
33. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5; Minutes, January 10, 1919, vol. VI, p. 307; ibid., March 28, 1924, p. 581; ibid., April 14, 1924, p. 582.
34. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 5.
35. Idem; Minutes, May 30, 1919, vol. VI, p. 325; ibid., April 21, 1922, vol. VI, p. 470, et seq.
36. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 14f.
37. Ibid., sec. 5. See also Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 311; ibid., May 30, 1919, p. 325; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 8, 1935, vol. III, p. 144; ibid., January 31, 1939, p. 294, et seq.

The chief of police attends the sessions of the board of trustees, and takes his instructions and orders from the mayor.(38) His jurisdiction extends "throughout the Corporation and the Parish" in the execution of legal orders, decrees, summonses and warrants directed to him either by the board or by the mayor.(39) He patrols the town in order to preserve the peace, and he has supervision over the duties performed by such policemen as may be employed.(40) In addition to the duties expressly enumerated in the charter, the chief of police may be required to perform such other duties as the board of trustees may see fit to prescribe.(41)

61. LEDGER POLICE DOCKET, July 31, 1939--. 2 vols. Title varies: Police Docket; Day Book.
Reports of police officers on property stolen, traffic accidents, and persons charged with misdemeanor or criminal offenses within the limits of this municipality giving date, statement of facts pertaining to accident or crime, names of parties involved, scene of accident or crime, name of officer making report and in some instances notations as to disposition made. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. Aver. 260 pp. 10 x 7 x 1. Chief of Police's office.

62. [RECORD OF WANTED PERSONS], 1935--. Approx. 1500 cards in 2 steel file drawers.
Individual card record on persons wanted by federal and state departments of justice giving name of fugitive, aliases, identification number, physical description, facsimile of finger prints, crime charged with or found guilty of, and name of department to be notified if fugitive is apprehended. Arr. by numerators of finger prints. No index. Printed. 4 x 6 x 12. Mayor's office.

63. TRANSIENT REGISTER, Feb. 7, 1936--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Register of transients who have applied for sleeping accommodations in the city jail giving date, name, home address, and in some instances occupation of applicant, and name and address of nearest relative. In cases where accommodations were refused reason for same is noted. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. Aver. 200 pp. 10 x 7 x 1/2. Chief of Police's office.

TOWN ATTORNEY

None of the early special acts relating to the incorporation of Thibodaux made any specific provision for the appointment or election of

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38. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 33.
39. Idem.
40. Idem; Minutes, January 17, 1919, Ordinance #246, vol. VI, p. 309, et seq.
41. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 33.

Town Attorney (Next entry, p. 89)

a town attorney.(1) The employment of legal counsel was first brought into the organic law of the municipality by the general charter act of 1898.(2) Under its provisions the board of aldermen was given the option of annually appointing an attorney for the town, or employing legal counsel as the occasion arose.(3) In the event that an attorney was appointed, the board was authorized to prescribe his duties and fix his compensation.(4)

Prior to the adoption of this general charter act in 1900,(5) the town employed an attorney as the occasion demanded.(6) However, in 1897, when an attorney was needed to prepare the ordinances and bonds relative to the waterworks system, the town engaged a lawyer at a fixed salary to serve for the balance of the term of the council.(7) From this time the town continued to enjoy the advantages of legal counsel,(8) but the office of "city" attorney was not officially created until 1907.(9)

When the town came under its present charter, express provision was made for the appointment of a city attorney.(10) A general provision gave the board of trustees the right to remove the attorney at any time and without cause.(11) No specific limitation was enunciated as to the length of his term of office.(12) His compensation was likewise left to the discretion of the board.(13)

The city attorney acts as legal adviser to the mayor, the board of trustees, and all departments of the town.(14) He conducts all cases in court when the town is either plaintiff, defendant, or party at interest;

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1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, et seq.
2. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 23, as amended by La. A., 1900, #97.
3. Idem.
4. Idem ; see Minutes, June 4, 1901, vol. V, p. 288; ibid., May 7, 1902, p. 301; ibid., August 23, 1912, vol. VI, p. 8; ibid., May 14, 1913, p. 36; ibid., June 11, 1914, p. 94; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 1, 1917, vol. II, p. 315.
5. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
6. Ibid., February 8, 1895, p. 35.
7. Ibid., June 10, 1897, p. 130.
8. Ibid., December 6, 1898, p. 175; ibid., June 11, 1900, p. 233; ibid., June 4, 1901, p. 288.
9. Ibid., May 8, 1907, p. 560. At this meeting a motion was passed that "the board create the office of city attorney."
10. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 22; Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 311; ibid., June 9, 1922, p. 485.
11. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 21.
12. Ibid., sec. 25.
13. Ibid.; see Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 311; ibid., December 5, 1919, p. 354; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 8, 1935, vol. III, p. 144; ibid., January 31, 1939, p. 294.
14. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 22; Minutes, March 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 315; ibid., April 16, 1920, p. 366; ibid., January 7, 1921, p. 415.

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and he is required to perform such other duties as may be required of him by ordinance.(15) Opinions rendered by the town attorney are recorded in the minutes, see entry 1.

BOARD OF HEALTH

The board of health in Thibodaux was created during a yellow fever epidemic in the latter part of 1878.(1) The citizens of the town petitioned the municipal council to take measures against the spread of the disease from areas already affected,(2) and an ordinance was passed creating a board of health, prescribing the duties of its members, and fixing a fine for violations of health regulations.(3) The board, consisting of four physicians and two lay members, met for the first time on July 31, 1878.(4)

Although the legislature did not provide for municipal boards of health as separate entities until 1898,(5) as early as 1882 the governing authorities of incorporated towns or cities were authorized to constitute themselves local boards of health, choosing a registered physician as health officer, and fixing his duties and compensation.(6) In 1898, in pursuance of the constitution of that year,(7) municipalities in which boards of health did not already exist were directed to organize such boards to be composed of five members, three of whom, if practicable, being licensed physicians.(8) Members of the board of health could not be council members nor public officials,(9) and they were required to be voters in the community and to have been residents of the town for 5 years prior to their appointment.(10) The board served a 4-year term.(11) They selected from

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15. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 22; Minutes, March 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 315. Special counsel may be employed to assist the city attorney. (Minutes, April 21, 1922, Ordinance #263, vol. VI, p. 467; ibid., October 8, 1920, p. 392.)
1. Thibodaux Sentinel, August 10, 1878. The epidemic in Thibodaux lasted about 3 months, attacking approximately 900 persons, 74 of whom died from the disease. See also Thibodaux Sentinel, December 7, 1878, and December 28, 1878.
2. Minutes, July 30, 1878, vol. III, pp. 170, 171.
3. Ibid., Ordinance #58. The governing authorities of incorporated municipalities were authorized to enact ordinances to protect themselves against the introduction of contagious or epidemical diseases. (La. A., 1835, p. 161, sec. 5; La. A., 1855, #263, sec. 8.)
4. Minutes, August 6, 1878, vol. III, pp. 174, 175.
5. La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 5.
6. La. A., 1882, #92.
7. Const., 1898, art. 296.
8. La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 5.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., sec. 6. In 1900 the required length of residence was changed to 1 year. (La. A., 1900, #44.)
11. La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 5.

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among the physician members a chairman to act as health officer, and they fixed and paid his compensation.(12) The board had the power to appoint a sanitary officer, who should act as secretary, and to stipulate his duties and his salary.(13) The expenses of the board were borne by the municipality, which could be compelled by mandamus to provide for the support of such boards.(14)

In conformity with existing laws the board of aldermen of Thibodaux in 1913 created by ordinance a municipal board of health to be composed of five members, three of whom if practicable being licensed physicians. (15) The members were required to be residents of and voters in the town, and they were selected by the mayor and board of aldermen for a 4-year term.(16) Pending the board's being placed on a self-sustaining basis, the salaries of the president and of the sanitary inspector were to be paid by the town.(17) The amount so expended by the town was to be refunded to it out of surplus revenue to be derived from fees imposed by the board of health under the sanitary code.(18) The board of health was to hold its first meeting on the first Tuesday after its election, when it was to select its own officers.(19) Members of the board of health

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12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid., sec. 7. For subsequent legislation on municipal boards of health see La. A., 1900, #44; La. A., 1902, #150; La. A., 1904, #184; La. A., 1912, #131; La. A., 1912, #173. In 1918 the legislature gave the state board of health the right of mandamus to compel the creation of municipal boards of health, (La. A., 1918, #247, sec. 3.) but it was not until 1921 that the state board of health was authorized to appoint such a board on the failure of the municipality to do so. A board so appointed had the same powers as one appointed by a municipal council. (La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13, as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.) The act of 1921 changed the composition of the board, making it necessary that one of the members be an official of the municipal government. (La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13 as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.)
15. Minutes, June 6, 1913, vol. VI, Ordinance #183, p. 41. See also Minutes, August 7, 1917, vol. VI, p. 263, et seq.
16. Minutes, June 6, 1913, vol. VI, Ordinance #183, p. 41. See also Minutes, August 7, 1917, vol. VI, pp. 262, 263; ibid., September 9, 1921, p. 444; ibid., February 27, 1925, p. 628; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 7, 1927, vol. III, p. 15; ibid., Resolution passed January 23, 1931, p. 87; ibid., January 31, 1939, p. 294. All boards served a 4-year term except the one appointed in 1925. The term of this board expired in 1927 in order to conform with the ruling that the board of health should serve a term coequal to that of the governing body appointing it. (La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13, as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.)
17. Ordinance Book, Resolution passed August 5, 1913, vol. II, p. 250.
18. Ibid.
19. Minutes, June 6, 1913, vol. VI, Ordinance #183, p. 41.

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were named by the board of aldermen on June 6, 1913.(20) Applications for sanitary inspector were submitted to the board of aldermen by the president of the board of health,(21) but the municipal authorities left the selection of the inspector to the discretion of the health board.(22) The salary of the inspector was paid by the board of aldermen.(23) The present board of health was elected on January 31, 1939.(24) In the board of health are vested the health, quarantine, and sanitary measures of the town.(25)

HEALTH OFFICER

The work of the board of health is carried on through the health officer, who is the only member of the board authorized to receive a salary.(1) His compensation is fixed by the board of health, subject to the approval of the municipal council.(2) Until 1926 the health officer was chairman of the board of health,(3) selected by the board from among its own members.(4) After 1926, however, the board of health was free to select as health officer any licensed physician skilled in sanitary science.(5) The appointment of the health officer is subject to the approval of the state board of health.(6)

The specific duties of the town health officer were enumerated in detail in the municipal charter of 1918.(7) Subject to the supervision and control of the board of trustees, the health officer enforced all laws, ordinances, and regulations relative to the preservation and promotion of the public health, the prevention and restriction of diseases, and the

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20. Ordinance Book, Resolution passed June 6, 1913, vol. II, p. 248.
21. Minutes, March 10, 1914, vol. VI, p. 81.
22. Minutes, April 7, 1914, vol. VI, p. 83. Power to appoint a sanitary officer was vested in the board of health. (La. A., 1904, #184.)
23. Idem. Although the board of health was to fix and pay the salary of the sanitary inspector, (La. A., 1904, #184) the expenses of the board of health were borne by the town. (La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 7 as amended by La. A., 1912, #173.)
24. Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 31, 1939, vol. III, p. 294.
25. Minutes, June 6, 1913, Ordinance #183, vol. VI, p. 41. For an instance of the functioning of the board of health see Minutes, March 5, 1918, vol. VI, pp. 281-283.

1. La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 6; La. A., 1900, #44, sec. 1; La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13, as amended by La. A., 1926, #296. See also Minutes, April 7, 1914, vol. VI, p. 83; ibid., April 1, 1921, p. 426; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed January 7, 1927, vol. III, p. 15; ibid., Resolution passed January 31, 1939, p. 294.
2. La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13 as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.
3. La. A., 1898, #192, sec. 5; La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13.
4. Idem.
5. Ibid., as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.
6. Ibid.
7. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 20.

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suppression of nuisances which might affect the general health of the residents of the town.(8) To this end he inspected and supervised the production, transportation, storage, and sale of goods and foodstuffs in the community. It was also the duty of the health officer to cause a system of vital statistics to be kept. In the event of an epidemic he could enforce such quarantine regulations as might be appropriate to the emergency.(9) The health officer had the power to issue warrants to enter, examine, and inspect establishments, but this power could be exerted only to prevent epidemics and to abate imminent menaces to the public health.(10) He exercised all the powers provided by general laws relative to the functions of municipal health officers, and he also enforced additional regulations enacted by the board of trustees.(11) Since the organization of a parish health unit in Thibodaux in 1925,(12) most of the activities of the municipal health officer have been discontinued.(13) The municipal health officer has no records.

FIRE BOARD

Until 1895 the fire companies of Thibodaux operated on a purely voluntary basis. In that year the individual organizations were consolidated into one fire department.(1) The Thibodaux Volunteer Fire Department was controlled by a fire board, consisting of the mayor as ex officio chairman and one member from each of the fire companies. One of the members served as chief and the other three as assistant chiefs.(2)

In 1906, there being five fire companies in Thibodaux, the membership of the fire board was increased to a total of six, including the mayor as ex officio chairman. Each company was allowed one representative.(3) Members of the fire board were elected at a joint meeting of the

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8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. La. A., 1921, E.S. #79, sec. 13, as amended by La. A., 1926, #296.
11. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 20.
12. The health unit was established in 1925 and reorganized in 1927 following the passage of act #296 of 1926, which authorized police juries to contract with the state board of health and other agencies for the establishment and maintenance of a health unit.
13. Dr. P.J. Dansereau, municipal health officer, Notes on Interview with Dr. P.J. Dansereau by Marcelle F. Schertz. (Copy on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.)
1. Ordinance Book (1881-1924) pp. 24, 26, 55, 76; Minutes, December 13, 1895, vol. V, p. 79. See historical sketch, fire companies.
2. Minutes, December 13, 1895, vol. V, pp. 78-81, Ordinance #109.
3. Ordinance Book (1881-1924) Ordinance #146, approved January 12, 1906, p. 200.

(Next entry, p. 89.) Fire Board

fire companies each December and approved by the board of aldermen at its first regular meeting in January. Fire board members took office on the 1st of February and served a 1-year term.(4)

Requests for supplies or equipment were required to be made by the chief or assistant chief to the board of aldermen.(5) Likewise, the board of aldermen was obliged to refer to the fire board for its recommendation all matters coming before the municipal board which concerned the fire department.(6)

After 1915, when the value of fire department property exceeded $12,000,(7) revenue for the support of the department was received from the State.(8)

In 1932, in conformity with the regulation that no fire company should have more than one representative on the board, the membership of the board was restricted to five persons, the mayor remaining in his capacity of ex officio chairman.(9) In the event of a vacancy in the fire board, the president of the company from which the vacancy occurred assumes the position of board member.(10)

In a special election held in October 1940 the citizens of Thibodaux approved a 5 mill property tax levy for public improvements including the maintenance of the fire department.(11) The mayor was then authorized to lease yearly from the fire companies all fire stations, trucks and equipment in the amount of the sum set aside in the municipal budget for the maintenance of the fire department.(12) However, title to all fire department property is vested in the public.(13) The percentage of revenue allotted to the fire department is turned over to the fire board in monthly installments. Each fire company receives a small amount monthly for current expenses, and the balance is spent by the fire board for operation, repairs,

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4. Ordinance Book (1881-1924) Ordinance #146, approved January 12, 1906, p. 200; see also Minutes, January 17, 1919, vol. VI, pp. 309; ibid., January 13, 1920, vol. VI, p. 358; ibid., January 7, 1921, vol. VI, p. 416.
5. Ordinance Book (1881-1924) Ordinance #146, approved January 12, 1906, p. 200; see also, Minutes, February 6, 1920, vol. VI, p. 362.
6. Ibid.
7. Ordinance Book (1881-1924), Resolution passed January 28, 1915, p. 299.
8. Ibid.; La. A., 1914, #295. According to this act, towns having an organized fire department with equipment valued at $1,000 or over were entitled to 10% of the premiums collected by out-of-state fire insurance companies operating within the corporate limits of the town.
9. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #327, adopted March 31, 1932, vol. III, p. 172.
10. Ibid.
11. Minutes, October 25, 1940, vol. IX, p. 48.
12. Minutes, March 25, 1941, vol. IX, p. 86.
13. Ibid.

and maintenance.(14) All bills must be approved by the fire board and are paid by a check signed by the secretary of the fire board and countersigned by the fire chief.(15) The assistant secretary may act for the secretary, and the assistant fire chief may replace the fire chief.(16) The secretary of the fire board is required to furnish bond payable to the town for faithful performance of duty, and he must account for all funds turned over to him.(17) Quarterly reports of all receipts and disbursements must be rendered by the fire board to the board of trustees. (18) Records of the fire board are located in the office ofthe secretary-treasurer, Ernest Thibodaux, in the powerhouse in Thibodaux. Records of the Thibodaux Fire Company #1 are located in the store of Braud's Sons, Inc., 406 W. Third St., Thibodaux, c/o Victor H. Toups, secretary. The records of Protector Fire Company #2 are located at the Teche Greyhound Bus Station, 108 W. 2nd St., Thibodaux, c/o Alex Gautreaux, secretary, unless otherwise indicated in the entry. The location of the records of the other fire companies are shown in the entries.

Fire Board Records

64. SECRETARY AND TREASURER, THIBODAUX FIRE DEPARTMENT, 1932--. Approx. 40 items in 1 steel file drawer.

Records of fire board including minutes of the board at regular and special meetings, membership lists of the various companies, list of officers elected for each current year, reports on finances of the department, reports on fire calls answered, chief's annual report on fire alarms answered in city limits, and annual list of same from local rural section. No obvious arr. Hdw. and typed. 3 x 9 x 14.

65. THIBODAUX FIRE DEPARTMENT LETTERS (Miscellaneous), 1932--. Approx. 100 items in 4 steel file drawers. Title varies: Reports on Out of Town Fires; Louisiana State Firemen's Association; Parade Expense 1935.

Miscellaneous records of this office including bills, invoices, correspondence from various governmental departments, copies of ordinances pertaining to the governing of this board, and newspapers containing items of interest about the various fire companies. No obvious arr. No index. Hdw., typed and printed. 3 x 9 x 14.

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14. Minutes, March 25, 1941, vol. IX, p. 86.
15. Ibid., p. 87.
16. Ibid.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.

Thibodaux Fire Company #1

66. MINUTES, Jan. 9, 1890--. 2 vols. Title varies: Record Book Thibodaux Fire Co. #1.
Record of proceedings at regular and special meetings of this organization detailing all actions taken and matters considered of interest to this body including election of officers and passing on new members; appointing of standing and special committees, including building committee which has charge of hall and makes arrangements for leasing, repairing, and remodeling of same, finance committee whose duty it is to check treasurer's reports and secure funds for operating expenses, investigation committee whose duty it is to secure data on applicants wishing to become members of this organization, and the grievance committee which settles differences that may arise among members. Reports include those of committees on equipment of the company and on fires occurring since last meeting, and all receipts and disbursements of company's funds. The minutes of each meeting give date held and number of members present, and are signed by the president and secretary. Also written into the minutes are the by-laws and amendments to the fire company constitution. In separate section of volume is the annual roster of membership. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 1890-1935; typed 1936--. Aver. 300 pp. 16 x 9 x 2.

67. [STUBS OF WARRANTS], July 15, 1932--. 1 vol.
Stubs of warrants issued by the secretary to be honored by treasurer giving warrant number, date issued, to whom, purpose of expenditure, fund to be debited, and amount. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 100 pp. 4 x 8 x 1.

Protector Fire Company #2

68. LEDGER (Minutes of Protector Fire Company #2), Jan. 5, 1931--. 1 vol.
Record of proceedings of this organization at regular and special meetings. For description, see entry 66. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 272 pp. 14 x 9 x 1 1/2.

69. [CHARTER AND BY-LAWS OF PROTECTOR FIRE COMPANY #2], Mar. 20, 1876- Dec. 4, 1933. 1 vol.
Constitution and by-laws of this organization including a copy of the legislative act granting charter and the preamble and articles of constitution adopted which include: name and motto, procedure for electing officers, their duties and qualifications for active and honorary membership, exercises and inspections, setting of dates of meetings and causes for fines to be imposed or procedure for expulsion of members for violation of by-laws. Included is a list of charter members. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 1876-1910; typed Dec. 4, 1933. 98 pp. (53 used). 12 x 8 x 1/2.

Fire Board - Home Hook
And Ladder Company #1 (70-76)

70. DOUBLE ENTRY LEDGER (Roll of Active Members), 1937--. 1 vol. Annual membership roll of this company giving name and record of attendance at meeting. Arr. by years. No index. Hdw. 66 pp. 12 x 7 x 1.

71. [WARRANT STUBS], Jan. 16, 1939--. 1 vol. Combination voucher and check stubs issued by secretary on funds of company to be honored by bank after being counter-signed by treasurer giving number, date issued, name of payee, and amount and purpose of expenditure. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. 150 pp. 7 x 4 x 1.

72. [CASH BOOK], Mar. 5, 1929--. 1 vol. Record of receipts and disbursements of funds of this company giving on receipts date received; source, including municipal and fire board checks; amount of check and total at given period; disbursements give date; purpose of expenditure, including motor repairs and services, and services of caretaker; amount of disbursement; total disbursements and bank balance at given period. Arr. by receipts and disbursements on alternating pages, chron. thereunder by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 172 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Records are located in the newspaper office of The Comet, 311 St. Philip St., Thibodaux, c/o Oliver C. Robichaux, secretary.

Home Hook And Ladder Company #1

73. MINUTE BOOK, Oct. 23, 1893--. 5 vols. Title varies: Record. Record of proceedings of this organization at regular and special meetings. For description, see entry 66. Included are records of the benefit fund for members of this company. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. Aver. 350 pp. 14 x 10 x 2. Records are located at the residence of Paul J. Naquin, Sr., recording secretary, 724 Canal Ave., Thibodaux.

74. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS H(ook) & L(adder) FIRE CO. #1, Mar. 2, 1876. 1 vol. Constitution and by-laws of this company. For description, see entry 69. Arr. chron. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. 132 pp. 10 x 8 x 1. Records located at Fire Station, 710 Canal Ave., Thibodaux.

75. S.E. LEDGER, 1934--. 1 vol. Ledger of each member's relief fund account giving amount of dues with which he is debited, amount paid on credit side, and name of member. This is a sick and accident fund to be used when a member is ill or is injured while in the performance of duty. Arr. by accounts. No index. Hdw. 276 pp. 12 x 7 x 1. Records are located in the residence of Louis E. Caillouet, financial secretary, 720 St. Philip St., Thibodaux.

76. LEDGER, TREASURER'S BOOK, Jan. 15, 1876--. 2 vols. Title varies: Day Book, Home Hook and Ladder. Ledger of general and relief funds of this company giving amounts debited

and credited and balance on hand at the end of each month. Pasted to pages of volume 1876-1900, in a separate section, are warrants paid by treasurer. Arr. by funds on alternating pages, chron. by date of entry thereunder. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on printed forms. 360 pp. (297 used). 14 x 9 x 2. Records 1876-1900 are at Station, 710 Canal Ave.; 1901--, at residence of Charles J. Le Blanc, treasurer, 410 E. 12th St., Thibodaux.

Vigilant Chemical And Hose Company

77. RECORD (Minutes of Vigilant Chemical And Hose Company), Jan. 16, 1935--. 1 vol.
Record of proceedings of this organization at regular and special meetings. For description, see entry 66. Included is the annual roll of membership. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 498 pp. 14 x 8 x 2. Records are located in the store of Charles B. Musso, secretary, 606 W. Third St., Thibodaux.

78. [STUBS OF WARRANTS], 1929--. 3 vols.
Stubs of warrants on company's funds issued by secretary to be honored by the treasurer giving number, date issued, name of payee, and amount and purpose of expenditure. Arr. chron. by date issued. No index. Aver. 100 stubs. 3 x 6 x 3 1/2. Records are located in the store of Charles B. Musso, secretary, 606 W. Third St., Thibodaux.

79. CITIZEN'S BANK AND TRUST CO. (Check Stubs), July 1938--. 1 vol.
Check stubs account of receipts and disbursements of this organization giving check number, date, name of payee, purpose of expenditure, and amount. Deposits are noted on back of stub with balance at given period. Arr. chron. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on printed forms. Approx. 100 stubs. 12 x 14 x 1. Records are located in residence of Dr. F.G. Wirt, treasurer, 806 Jackson Ave., Thibodaux.

ASSESSOR (Defunct)

The board of trustees was authorized to appoint an assessor under the original charter of 1830.(1) The assessor was required to take the oath of office before a justice of the peace,(2) and he served a 1-year term.(3) The statute is silent as to any bond required and as to his compensation.(4) Vacancies were filled by the board of trustees.(5)

The office of assessor in many instances has been combined with other

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1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 3.
2. Ibid., sec. 5.
3. Ibid., sec. 3.
4. Idem.
5. Idem.

 (Next entry, p. 104.)

municipal offices. As early as 1838 the clerk was authorized to perform the functions of assessor.(6) After the War between the States, the office of assessor was combined with those of collector, wharfinger, and constable.(7) In 1894 the clerk resumed his duties as assessor, having been officially designated ex officio assessor in that year.(8) The general charter act of 1898, adopted in 1900,(9) made no specific provision for an assessor.(10) The board of aldermen was authorized to combine the office of assessor with that of clerk or with that of marshal,(11) or the board could elect an assessor as a separate office under their general powers to provide for the election of such municipal officers as might be found necessary.(12) The minutes are not clear as to which action was taken,(13) and some confusion evidently existed even among the governing authorities, for in 1905 they formally declared that the election of secretary or clerk carried with it also the office of assessor.(14) The charter of 1918 permitted great flexibility in this matter.(15) It left to the discretion of the board of trustees the means and methods of assessing, securing, and enforcing the payment of taxes. The board could either appoint a town assessor or impose such duty upon any officer or employee they deemed proper. In lieu of making any special provision for the office, they could adopt as the town assessment a copy of the assessment roll prepared by the state assessor.(16) It is not clear which policy was pursued.(17) While some of the records in the minute book seem to indicate that the assessor was a separate office, (18) other records in the same book for the same year show that the offices of clerk and assessor were combined.(19) Separate ordinances outline the

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6. La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 5.
7. Minutes, September 23, 1865, vol. II, p. 47; ibid., June 18, 1874, vol.III, p. 3; ibid., May 11, 1875, p. 38; ibid., November 15, 1878, p. 185.
8. Minutes, November 28, 1894, vol. V, p. 31.
9. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
10. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
11. Idem; Minutes, May 14, 1913, vol. VI, p. 36; ibid., December 5, 1919, p. 354.
12. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
13. Minutes, November 5, 1901, vol. V, p. 302; ibid., November 17, 1902, p. 322.
14. Minutes, May 12, 1905, vol. V, p. 464. See also Minutes, May 8, 1907, vol. V, p. 558; Minutes, May 9, 1913, vol. VI, p. 35; ibid., May 14, 1913, p. 36; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240.
15. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26a.
16. Ibid.
17. Minutes, December 4, 1918, Ordinance #304, vol. VI, pp. 302-304; Minutes, October 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 348; ibid., December 5, 1919, p. 354.
18. Minutes, October 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 348, gives "the town assessor was nominated and elected at a salary of $50 a year."
19. Minutes, December 5, 1919, vol. VI, p. 354, gives in a lump sum the salary paid to the clerk and assessor.

(Next entry, p. 104.)

duties of the assessor,(20) but since 1913 at least,(21) and probably since 1905,(22) the office of assessor has been combined with that of clerk.

Although Thibodaux had been functioning as a municipality since 1830,(23) it was not until 1846 that any duties were specifically outlined for the assessor.(24) At this time he was required to make an assessment and estimate of all taxable property of the town within 3 months after his appointment. Upon the completion of the roll he was to give notice to persons interested by posting an advertisement in three different places within the town limits.(25) At the expiration of 10 days, during which time the roll was subject to correction, he was to make two copies with recapitulations attached, one to be delivered to the collector, and the other deposited among the archives of the board of trustees. A third and separate recapitulation was required for delivery to the treasurer.(26) It was expressly provided that the assessor should receive no compensation until he had fulfilled these enumerated duties.(27) The charter of 1898 provided that the assessment roll should be made by the clerk or the tax collector by copying from the parish assessment that portion embracing property or persons within the corporate limits.(28) The copy could be made any time after the assessment rolls were approved, and was to be given to the tax collector as his warrant for the collection of municipal taxes. In the event that persons or property had escaped taxation for a previous year, the clerk was required to assess such property, which assessment, when approved by the mayor and board of aldermen upon notice to the person assessed, became binding and conclusive unless appealed within 5 days after its approval.(29) Changes in the valuation of property assessed could be made by the board of aldermen at a regular or special meeting. Notice of such a meeting was required to be given 10 days in advance.(30) The assessment roll was submitted to the council, who referred it to the finance committee for approval.(31) One copy was retained in the municipal archives, one turned over to the collector, and one deposited with the clerk of court of the parish.(32) The present charter provides that the

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20. Minutes, December 4, 1918, Ordinance #304, vol. VI, pp. 302-304; Minutes, September 10, 1920, Ordinance #257, vol. VI, p. 390; Minutes, October 29, 1940, Ordinance #376, vol. IX, p. 59.
21. Minutes, May 14, 1913, vol. VI, p. 36. See also Ordinance Book, May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240.
22. Minutes, May 12, 1905, vol. V, p. 464.
23. La. A., 1830, p. 134.
24. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 24.
25. Idem.
26. Idem.
27. Idem. For a detailed account of the duties of the assessor, see Thibodaux Sentinel, March 10, 1866, Ordinance #9.
28. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 35.
29. Idem.
30. Idem.
31. Minutes, November 5, 1901, vol. V, p. 302; ibid., November 17, 1902, p. 322.
32. Ibid.

 (Next entry, p. 104.)

assessor shall extend and make the assessment rolls of the town on or before the first day of September of each year.(33) Notice of the completion of the rolls is published for 20 days in the official journal of the town,(34) and the rolls are exposed for inspection and correction in the office of the trustee of finance.(35) Application by property owners to modify their assessment must be made within 20 days.(36)

TAX COLLECTOR (Defunct)

The tax collector was among the original officers provided for by the first charter in 1830.(1) He was appointed by the board of trustees (2) and was required to take an oath before a justice of the peace.(3) His bond was such as the trustees might deem expedient.(4) It was required that he be appointed within 5 days after the trustees were elected, and his term was for 1 year.(5) Vacancies in the office were filled by the trustees.(6) Municipal taxes were required to be collected within such time as might be provided by ordinance, and all taxes collected were to be paid over to the treasurer.(7) The collector was given the same power to enforce payment of taxes imposed as was held by parish sheriffs in relation to state taxes.(8) In 1847 the collector assumed the duties of the wharfinger in addition to his normal responsibilities as collector.(9) At various times the collector was also assessor, constable, marketmaster, and sanitary officer as well as wharfinger.(10)

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33. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26a. See also Minutes, December 4, 1918, Ordinance #304, vol. VI, pp. 302-304; ibid., September 10, 1920, Ordinance #257, sec. 2, vol. VI, 390; ibid., October 29, 1940, Ordinance #376, vol. IX, p. 59.
34. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 26a.
35. Idem.
36. Idem.
1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 3.
2. Idem.
3. Ibid., sec. 5.
4. Ibid., sec. 6.
5. Ibid., sec. 3.
6. Idem.
7. Ibid., sec. 7.
8. Idem.
9. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #2, approved July 16, 1847, vol. I, p. 27. See also Thibodaux Sentinel, November 25, 1865, Ordinance #6.
10. Minutes, September 23, 1865, vol. II, p. 47; ibid., June 18, 1874, vol. III, p. 3; ibid., May 11, 1875, p. 38; ibid., November 15, 1878, p. 185; ibid., November 24, 1880, p. 264; ibid., November 27, 1880, p. 266; ibid., November 28, 1894, vol. V, p. 31; ibid., December 6, 1898, p. 175.

(Next entry, p. 104.) Tax Collector (Defunct)

The general charter act of 1898 provided that the collection of taxes should be performed by the marshal.(11) However, this act was not adopted as the charter of the town until 1900 (12) after the consolidation of the office of tax collector with either that of marshal or clerk was left to the discretion of the mayor and board of aldermen.(13) The duties of constable or marshal and those of tax collector continued to be exercised by the same official.(14) As has been noted, this consolidation of the offices of collector and marshal was purely optional,(15) as the act of 1900 provided for the election of a tax collector by the board of aldermen for a 2-year term.(16) The board was to determine his bond,(17) and fix his compensation,(18) and held the power of removal (19) and of filling vacancies in office.(20) However, since the functions of collector were performed by the marshal, who was a popularly elected official, the powers of the board relative to the tax collector were not in effect. Although the bond and compensation of the marshal were fixed by the board,(21) this official could be removed only in the manner prescribed by the general law regulating the recall of all municipal officials.(22) As tax collector the marshal was required to account for and pay over all taxes collected, and to perform any other duties that might be required of him by ordinance.(23) He made monthly reports to the board of aldermen.(24)

With the adoption of the commission form of government in 1918, the duties of tax collector and town treasurer were combined into one department

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11. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19. See essay on chief of police, preceding.
12. Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.
13. La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1, approved July 10, 1900.
14. Minutes, May 12, 1905, vol. V, p. 464. The proceedings of the board stated that the office of marshal carried with it also the offices of collector, wharfinger, marketmaster, and sanitary officer.
15. La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
16. Ibid., sec. 2.
17. Ibid.
18. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15, as amended by La. A., 1912, #111, sec. 1 and La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1. See also Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 14, 1913, vol. II, p. 240; ibid., May 1, 1917, p. 315.
19. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 16, as amended by La. A., 1912, #111, sec. 1, and La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
20. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38 as amended by La. A., 1904, #196, sec. 1.
21. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
22. La. A., 1912, #235; La. A., 1914, #307. See essay on chief of police, preceding.
23. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 26.
24. Minutes, June 4, 1901, vol. V, p. 288; ibid., December 6, 1901, p. 303; ibid., January 7, 1902, p. 305; ibid., May 7, 1902, p. 310; ibid., June 9, 1902, p. 313; ibid., March 13, 1903, p. 326, et seq.

under the control of the trustee of finance.(25) Thus the office of tax collector passed out of existence as a separate political entity.(26) The books of the tax collector were closed and delivered to the newly elected trustee of finance on January 14, 1919.(27) A few days before, the trustee of finance had been authorized to employ a deputy collector, who assumed the routine duties formerly performed by the tax collector.(28) At the present time an assistant deputy collector is also employed.(29)

WHARFINGER (Defunct)

The office of wharfinger was created by a supplementary act to the charter passed in 1846.(1) Prior to this time the tax collector had been responsible for the collection of wharfage in addition to the collection of taxes.(2) The wharfinger was elected by ballot and majority vote of the mayor and trustees within 10 days after the general municipal election.(3) His oath of office could be taken before any justice of the peace of the parish, or any other officer authorized to administer oaths.(4) He was required to give such security as was ordained by the mayor and the trustees.(5) He served a 1-year term.(6) Vacancies were filled by the mayor and board of trustees in the same manner as the original selection was made.(7)

The duties of the wharfinger were to collect and pay over to the treasurer all sums due for wharfage, and he had the same power as the tax collector to enforce payment. Upon any shipmaster's refusal or neglect to pay the dues accrued, the wharfinger, after making an oath of the indebtedness of the ship before any court of competent jurisdiction, was empowered to sue out an attachment against the ship in the name of the mayor and trustees.(8) The money collected by the wharfinger was turned over to the treasurer, who kept a regular account of it.(9)

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25. La. A., 1918, #226, secs. 3, 15.
26. Idem.
27. Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 310.
28. Ibid., January 10, 1919, p. 307.
29. Ibid., October 29, 1940, vol. IX, pp. 56, 57. For the functions of the trustee of finance as ex officio treasurer and tax collector, see essay on that office.

1. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 16.
2. Minutes, May 4, 1840, vol. I, p. 41.
3. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 16.
4. Ibid., sec. 17.
5. Ibid., sec. 18.
6. Ibid., sec. 16.
7. Idem.
8. Ibid., sec. 20.
9. Ibid., sec. 21.

(Next entry, p. 104.)

Although the office of wharfinger was created as a separate entity in 1846, the following year the duties of wharfinger and those of collector were being performed by the same person.(10) The act of 1846 did not prohibit the consolidation of these offices.(11) Upon the reorganization of the municipal government following the close of the War between the States, the functions of wharfinger were performed by an official who acted also as constable, assessor and collector.(12) Shortly after the first meeting of the newly organized town council, ordinances outlining the duties of each of these officials were enacted.(13) The functions of wharfinger and collector were specifically combined by an ordinance which closely followed the charter of 1846 in relation to the wharfinger but imposed upon the holder of the office the additional duties of tax collector.(14) The wharfinger-collector was required to keep a detailed account of money received, indicating its source, and to pay over such sums to the treasurer. Monthly he submitted a statement of his accounts together with the treasurer's receipts for the money turned over to him, and annually he submitted a full recapitulation of the amounts received and paid over by him during the year.(15) The office of wharfinger continued to be combined with that of collector(16) since one official performed the functions of both offices, but it was not until 1913 that the title wharfinger ceased to be used. At this time the tax collector was designated ex officio collector of all revenues of the town.(17)

MARKETMASTER (Defunct)

The office of marketmaster was doubtless created shortly after the markethouse was opened for public use on September 22, 1840.(1) The markethouse was leased annually at public sale to the highest bidder. The one to

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10. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #2, passed July 16, 1847, vol. I, p. 27.
11. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 16.
12. Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23, 1865; ibid., September 30, 1865.
13. For the ordinance pertaining to the collector-wharfinger see Thibodaux Sentinel, November 25, 1865, Ordinance #6, for the assessor see ibid., March 10, 1866, Ordinance #9, and for the constable see ibid., Ordinance #8.
14. Thibodaux Sentinel, November 25, 1865, Ordinance #6; La. A., 1846, #153, secs. 16-20. See also essay on tax collector, preceding.
15. Thibodaux Sentinel, November 25, 1865, Ordinance #6, sec. 4.
16. Minutes, June 18, 1874, vol. III, p. 3; ibid., May 11, 1875, p. 38; ibid., November 15, 1878, p. 185; ibid., November 28, 1894, vol. V, p. 31; ibid., December 6, 1898, p. 175; ibid., March 12, 1905, p. 464.
17. Minutes, May 9, 1913, vol. VI, p. 35, Municipal revenues included in addition to general and special taxes the money formerly collected by the marketmaster as well as that collected by the wharfinger.
1. Minutes, September 19, 1840, vol. I, p. 50. For further information on the markethouse see Minutes, July 29, 1839, vol. I, p. 32; ibid., October 4, 1839, p. 36; ibid., March 16, 1840, p. 38; ibid., p. 43; ibid., September 19, 1840, p. 49. See also historical sketch, p. 5.

whom the markethouse was adjudicated became the marketmaster. As such he was required to post bond of one quarter over and above the amount of adjudication.(2) The bond was recorded in the town minutes and in the mortgage records of the parish.(3) In addition to posting bond the marketmaster subscribed to an oath of office.(4) Since the lease of the markethouse was put up for sale each year, the marketmaster served only a 1-year term.(5) His monthly salary was paid by the town council, chargeable to the markethouse fund.(6)

It was the special duty of the marketmaster to enforce the ordinances and resolutions relative to the markethouse and to vending within the limits of the town.(7) To this end he was invested with the authority to arrest violators of these ordinances and to bring them before the mayor or any justice of the peace within the town limits.(8) He certified to the correctness of all weights used in selling, and he was responsible for the cleanliness, lighting, and sanitation of the markethouse and for the freshness of the meats and vegetables sold therein.(9) Fines were provided as a penalty to persons using unapproved weights or selling diseased or spoiled meats.(10)

Stalls and benches in the markethouse were in turn leased by the marketmaster at rates fixed by ordinance.(11) Since all fruits and vegetables as well as meats were required to be sold at the markethouse, (12) the position of marketmaster was doubtless an enviable one. Articles sold contrary to regulations were confiscated and sold by the marketmaster

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2. Weekly Thibodaux Sentinel, January 12, 1867, Ordinance #22, sec. 1, hereinafter cited as Ordinance #22. See also Minutes, April 9, 1875, vol. III, p. 29; ibid., May 2, 1876, p. 72.
3. Minutes, April 9, 1875, vol. III, pp. 29, 30.
4. Ordinance #22, sec. 1.
5. Ibid.; see also Ordinance Book, Digest of Ordinances, approved February 4, 1881, secs. 147-163, pp. 35-38, hereinafter cited as Digest.
6. Ibid.; Minutes, November 1, 1881, vol. III, p. 349.
7. Ordinance #22, sec. 2.
8. Ibid.; Digest, sec. 160.
9. Ordinance #22, secs. 2-4.
10. Ibid., secs. 3, 4.
11. Ibid., secs. 5, 8. In 1867 benches used for selling vegetables, game, fowls, eggs, melons, fruits, nuts, or coffee rented for 5 cents a day; those used for selling meats and fish were taxed 25¢ a day. (Ordinance #22, sec. 8.)
12. Articles of marketing were not permitted to be hawked or peddled about the town except after 10:00 A.M. Since by this time the markethouse would have been open for business for about 6 hours, it is not likely that a great deal of trade was carried on in the streets. (The markethouse opened at 4:00 A.M. during the summer months, and a half hour later in the cooler seasons.) Oysters, milk, and butter were specifically exempted from the "no peddling" provisions, but other farm products were subject to a charge. (Ordinance #22, secs. 6, 10.)

(Next entry, p. 104.)

to the highest bidder.(13) The offender was subject to a fine, and the proceeds of the sale, minus the marketmaster's fee, were turned over to the town treasurer.(14) The marketmaster was required to report daily all fines and moneys collected by him and to turn over such sums to the town treasurer.(15)

Since the functions of the marketmaster were very similar to those of the tax collector(16) and the constable,(17) it is highly probable that this office was combined with one or the other related offices at an early date. It is certain that by 1880 the office of marketmaster had been combined with that of constable, which office at this time embraced also the functions of collector, assessor, wharfinger, and sanitary officer.(18) The marketmaster was never again made a separate political office. After 1900, when the constable or marshal became an elected official,(19) he continued to perform the duties of marketmaster, collector, wharfinger, and sanitary inspector.(20) Even the term marketmaster had ceased to be used by 1913, when the tax collector was designated as collector of all revenues of the town.(21) The public market had been gradually augmented and supplanted by private markets which came under municipal jurisdiction with the extension of the town limits,(22) and in 1916 the market square was dedicated as a public park.(23)

TREASURER (Defunct)

Under the charter of 1830 the board of trustees was required, within 5 days after their election, to appoint a treasurer,(1) who was to take the oath of office before a justice of the peace(2) and to post such bond

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13. Ordinance #22, sec. 7.
14. Idem.
15. Digest, secs. 147-163. For ordinances relative to the marketmaster and the conduct of the markethouse see Ordinance Book, Ordinance #81, 86, 89, 111, 125, 151-156, vol. II, pp. 96, 100, 102, 108, 133, 152, 205, 206, 216.
16. See essay on tax collector, preceding.
17. See essay on chief of police, preceding.
18. Minutes, November 24, 1880, vol. III, p. 264. See also Minutes, November 27, 1880, p. 266; ibid., November 28, 1894, vol. V, p. 31; ibid., December 6, 1898, p. 175.
19. La. A., 1898, #136, adopted as the charter of Thibodaux in 1900. (Minutes, August 30, 1900, Ordinance #130, vol. V, pp. 241, 242.)
20. Minutes, May 12, 1905, vol. V, p. 464. Sometimes the marshal was also street commissioner and superintendent of the power plant. (Minutes, May 21, 1909, vol. V, p. 684.)
21. Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240.
22. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #125, approved March 3, 1899, vol. II, p. 152; ibid., Ordinance #138, approved February 12, 1904, p. 190.
23. Minutes, April 4, 1916, Ordinance #233, vol. VI, p. 320.
1. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 3.
2. Ibid., sec. 5.

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as the trustees might deem expedient.(3) His term of office was fixed at 1-year.(4) Vacancies were filled by the board of trustees in the same manner as the original appointments had been made.(5) The treasurer was to receive all moneys paid over to him by the collector, and to keep a regular account of all fiscal transactions.(6) The trustees could request his accounts at any time.(7) The treasurer received and kept a record of all municipal funds, and money could be withdrawn from the treasury only on the warrant of the president of the board of trustees.(8) When the office of wharfinger was created in 1846,(9) the treasurer assumed the additional duty of accounting for the funds turned over to him by this official.(10) It was at this time that a previous appropriation by the mayor and board of trustees was made necessary before any disbursement from the treasury could be made.(11)

The structure and function of the office of treasurer were unchanged under the general charter of 1898.(12) His selection,(13) bond,(14) and compensation (15) remained in the hands of the municipal council (known as the board of aldermen after the adoption of this act in 1900) under the general provision covering all officers and employees of the town.(16) At each regular meeting of the board of aldermen the treasurer was required to submit a written report relative to the finances of the town.(17) Money could be paid out only on a warrant issued by order of the mayor and board of aldermen.(18) The office of treasurer as a separate municipal functionary passed out of existence when the present charter of 1918 was adopted.(19) His duties together with those of the tax collector

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3. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 6.
4. Ibid., sec. 3.
5. Idem.
6. Ibid., sec. 8. See also Thibodaux Sentinel, January 20, 1866, Ordinance #11.
7. Idem.
8. Idem. The charter of 1838 provided that warrants on the treasury should be signed by the mayor and two trustees. (La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 10.)
9. La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 16.
10. Ibid., sec. 21.
11. Idem.
12. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 27.
13. Minutes, May 1, 1901, vol. V, p. 285; ibid., May 1, 1903, p. 334; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240.
14. Minutes, May 8, 1903, vol. V, p. 335.
15. Minutes, May 7, 1902, vol. V, p. 310; Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 14, 1913, vol. II, p. 240; ibid., May 1, 1917, p. 315.
16. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par.15; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
17. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 27. See also Minutes, June 4, 1901, vol. V, p. 288; ibid., December 6, 1901, p. 303; ibid., January 7, 1902, p. 305; ibid., May 7, 1902, p. 310; ibid., June 9, 1902, p. 313; ibid., March 13, 1903, p. 326, et seq.
18. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 27.
19. La. A., 1918, #266.

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were combined in the office of trustee of finance.(20) The treasurer delivered his books to the newly inducted trustee of finance on January 14, 1919,(21) and he rendered his final report to the board of trustees shortly afterward.(22)

STREET COMMISSIONER (Defunct)

The office of street commissioner was first made a part of the governmental structure of Thibodaux with the adoption of the general charter act of 1898.(1) Prior to that time the town council had retained general supervision over the public thoroughfares and passed such by-laws and ordinances in relation to them as they deemed expedient.(2) Even though a separate office was authorized for this function in 1898, the activities of the street commissioner remained under the direction of the mayor and council.(3) No special qualifications were set forth for the holder of the office. He could at the same time be an alderman, or he could be the marshal.(4) He was elected by the mayor and board of aldermen(5) who likewise prescribed his bond and fixed his compensation.(6) His term of office was left in the hands of this body, at least by implication, since no specific time limit was set by the act. It could not extend any longer than 2 years, however, since this was the term for which the aldermen themselves were elected by the people.(7) The street commissioner could be removed by the mayor and board of aldermen for misconduct or neglect of duty,(8) and vacancies in the office were filled by the same body at either a regular or special meeting.(9) Subject to the direction of the town council the street commissioner had control of the streets, alleys, avenues, and

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20. La. A., 1918, #266, secs. 3, 15. See essay on the trustee of finance as ex officio treasurer and tax collector.
21. Minutes, January 31, 1919, vol. VI, p. 310.
22. Ibid., January 17, 1919, p. 308.
1. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19.
2. La. A., 1830, p. 134, sec. 4; La. A., 1838, #67, sec. 3; La. A., 1846, #153, sec. 5.
3. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 28. At one time the mayor acted as street commissioner. (Minutes, May 14, 1913, vol. VI, p. 36.)
4. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1. At this time the street commissioner was also superintendent of the electric light and waterworks plant. (Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 9, 1913, vol. II, p. 240; ibid., Resolution passed May 14, 1913, vol. II, p. 240.)
5. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 19; La. A., 1900, #97, sec. 1.
6. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 15; Minutes, May 14, 1913, vol. VI, p. 36, Ordinance Book, Resolution passed May 1, 1917, vol. II, p. 315.
7. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 36; La. A., 1904, #196, sec. 1; La. A., 1923, #69, sec. 1. The term of office of municipal employees was limited to that of the board appointing or electing them. (La. A., 1910, #30, sec. 1.)
8. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 15, par. 16; La. A., 1912, #111; La. A., 1916, #114, sec. 1.
9. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 38; La. A., 1904, #196, sec. 1.

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sidewalks of the town.(10) It was his responsibility to see that these thoroughfares were worked, repaired, altered, paved, lighted, and sprinkled; and any other matters which pertained to the good repair or condition of the streets came within the purview of his duties.(11) In addition, he was charged with performing any other function required of him by ordinance.(12)

When the present charter was adopted, no provision was made for the appointment or election of a street commissioner as a distinct official entity of the municipality.(13) His duties in the main were assumed by the trustee of public safety as ex officio head of the street department. (14) However, the trustee of public property also exercises supervisory care over streets and alleys with respect to their relationship to public utilities.(15)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GUION ACADEMY (Defunct)

The board of directors of the Guion Academy, the first public school in Thibodaux,(1) was created shortly after the completion of the school building in 1849.(2) The board was composed of six members, three of whom were elected at the regular municipal election, and three who composed the standing committee on education.(3) The first meeting was held May 30, 1849.(4) The board formulated the rules and regulations for the management of the school.(5)

Although academic activity was suspended when the school was taken over by the Federal forces during the War between the States,(6) the board of directors resumed control(7) upon the return of the building in 1865 to the municipal authorities.(8) Three school directors were

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10. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 28.
11. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 28; Minutes, February 7, 1902, vol. V, p. 306.
12. La. A., 1898, #136, sec. 28.
13. La. A., 1918, #266.
14. Ibid., sec. 14; Minutes, March 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 315, et seq.
15. La. A., 1918, #266, sec. 19; Minutes, February 7, 1919, vol. VI, p. 313; ibid., March 7, 1919, p. 317; et seq.
1. See historical sketch, schools.
2. Minutes, March 10, 1849, vol. I, p. 184.
3. Record (Journal of the Board of Directors of the Guion Academy), Ordinance for the establishment and organization of a public school in the town of Thibodaux, sec. 3, back of book, pp. 1-3.
4. Ibid., p. 3 (front of book)
5. Ibid., Rules for the government of the school, back of book, p. 3.
6. Naquin, History of Thibodaux.
7. Thibodaux Sentinel, September 23, 1865.
8. Minutes, October 13, 1865, vol. II, p. 49.

included in the governor's appointment of municipal officials,(9) and a committee on education was selected by the mayor.(10) When, however, in 1867 the building was leased to be used as a private school,(11) it may be assumed that the municipal authorities surrendered control of the academy. The committee on education was definitely discontinued.(12) Municipal school boards were formally abolished by the state legislature in 1874.(13) When the Guion Academy reopened in 1877,(14) its affairs were directed by the re-created committee on education.(15)

80. RECORD (Journal Of The Board Of Directors Of The Guion Academy), May 30, 1849- Sept. 17, 1862. 1 vol.

Record of proceedings at regular and special meetings of the board of directors of this school giving details of all matters considered and of action taken thereon by this body including appointment of president, committees, and teachers; approval of annual budgets; reports from special committees and from teachers on enrollment and attendance; regulations concerning the admittance of pupils; resolutions specifying the amount of teachers' salaries; outline of courses of study; fixing of school session dates and of holidays; orders for repairs to school buildings; authorization of payment of claims; lists of school equipment; approximation of expenditures for subsequent year; and invitations to parents to attend graduation exercises. The minutes of each meeting give date and place held, names of members present and absent, and signatures of president and secretary. Included in separate section of volume are the rules and regulations of this school and a copy of the ordinance establishing a public school in Thibodaux. Arr. chron. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. (42 used.) 15 x 10 x 1 1/2. Vault.

BOARD OF CONTROL OF PUBLIC LIBRARY (Defunct)

The Thibodaux public library was created by a municipal ordinance adopted November 19, 1926, in accordance with an act of the legislature

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9. Minutes, September 19, 1865, vol. II, p. 44.
10. Ibid., p. 47.
11. Minutes, August 29, 1867, vol. II, p. 82. See also historical sketch, schools.
12. Minutes, July 5, 1872, vol. II, p. 231; ibid., June 18, 1874, vol. III, p. 3; ibid., May 11, 1875, vol. III, p. 38; ibid., January 9, 1877, vol. III, p. 92.
13. La. A., 1874, #122, sec. 1.
14. Thibodaux Sentinel, September 29, 1877; see also Minutes, September 10, 1877, vol. III, p. 147.
15. Minutes, August 29, 1877, vol. III, p. 118.

Board Of Control Of
Public Library (Defunct)

passed the same year.(1) A board of control composed of five citizens was appointed by the board of trustees. Board members were to serve for one, two, three, four, and five years, and their successors for a term of five years. The mayor was ex officio a member of the board.(2) The following year a special election was called to authorize the levy of a tax for the maintenance and support of the library.(3) The proposition was not approved by the voters, however, and the ordinance creating the library board was repealed.(4) Since that time the library has operated under the sponsorship of the Women's Club of Thibodaux.(5)

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1. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #289, vol. III, pp. 14, 15; La. A., 1926, #36.
2. Idem.
3. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #291, adopted January 21, 1927, vol. III, pp. 16, 17; La. A., 1926, #36, sec. 7.
4. Ordinance Book, Ordinance #293, adopted April 22, 1927, vol. III, p. 18.
5. Mrs. Emmette Meyer, Notes on Interview with Mrs. Emmette Meyer by Lucy L. Pellegrin, p. 3. (Copy on file in State office of Louisiana Historical Records Survey.)

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